Oda Nobuna no Yabou Volume8

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織田信奈の野望

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春日みかげ

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織田信奈の野望8

強敵・浅井朝倉連合軍を打破し、意気軒昂な織田信奈。一気に領土が拡大したことで、信奈は柴田勝家や丹羽長秀、そして相良良晴などの主だった家臣を各地に配し、いよいよ戦国大名としての地歩を固めた。

また、竹中半兵衛に匹敵する頭脳を持つ、南蛮かぶれの軍師・黒田官兵衛も戦力として加わり、層も厚くなった織田家。盤石な基盤を整えつつある中、西国で異変が！　中国地方の雄、毛利家が進軍を開始したのだ。猛将の吉川元春と知将の小早川隆景を擁する毛利家は、姦雄として知られる宇喜多直家を先兵として攻め込んでくる。受けて立つ相良良晴はどう立ち向かうのか？　一方で京でも異変が！　怒涛の天下布武ラブコメディ第八弾。

TVアニメ、今夏放送開始予定！
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織田信奈の野望 アニメ上洛キャンペーン
竹中半兵衛と並ぶ天才軍師・黒田官兵衛登場！　GA文庫

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「愚者」のカードをひいた瞬間に、自分の運命はわかっていた。
愚者は、旅人。ただ子犬だけを連れた放浪者。

織田家とその仲間



織田信奈

尾張の姫大名。上洛して「天下布武」のために邁進している。安土に巨城を建築中。てばさきが大好物。

親族衆



松永久秀

大和国主。「蠍」。今は亡き斎藤道三とは旧知の仲。



津田信澄

「勘十郎」。信奈の弟。妻はお市。

織田家臣団

明智光秀

「十兵衛」。りこうもの。近江坂本城主。畿内を統率。丹波を攻略中。

滝川一益

「左近」。甲賀出身の幼い忍者姫武将。伊勢国主。

柴田勝家

「六」。織田家最強の猛将。巨乳。脳筋。越前国主。

丹羽長秀

「万千代」。信奈のお姉さん役。若狭国主。

前田犬千代

信奈の元小姓。無口な槍の達人。

将軍

今川義元

駿河の名族。信奈に降伏して将軍となったが、足利義昭の登場で微妙な立場に。



松平家

松平元康



「竹千代」。気が小さい三河の姫大名。信奈の妹分。

黒田官兵衛

播磨姫路城主。竹中半兵衛と並ぶ天才軍師。洗礼名ドン・シメオン。



仕官



相良良晴

現代日本から姫武将だらけの戦国時代にタイムスリップしてきた高校生。戦国ゲーム仕込みの知識で信奈を補佐、北近江二十万石の大名となった。

相良軍団

ねね

良晴の義理の妹。おりこうだがおねしょ癖あり。

蜂須賀五右衛門

良晴に仕える謎の幼女忍者。30文字以上喋ると噛む。

竹中半兵衛

良晴を補佐する天才少女軍師。陰陽師としての腕も一級品。泣き虫。

前鬼

半兵衛に仕える皮肉屋の式神。その正体は実は……。

反織田家

足利義昭



足利幕府復興の野望に燃える流浪の新将軍。今川義元を担ぐ信奈と敵対。

吉川元春 小早川隆景



中国の覇者・毛利家を支える双子姉妹。吉川は猛将、小早川は知将。足利義昭を上洛させるために織田家に宣戦布告。

宇喜多直家

「姫武将殺し」。毛利家に服従中の外様大名。特技は暗殺・謀殺。

近衛前久

やまと御所の関白。信奈の追い落としをはかる。

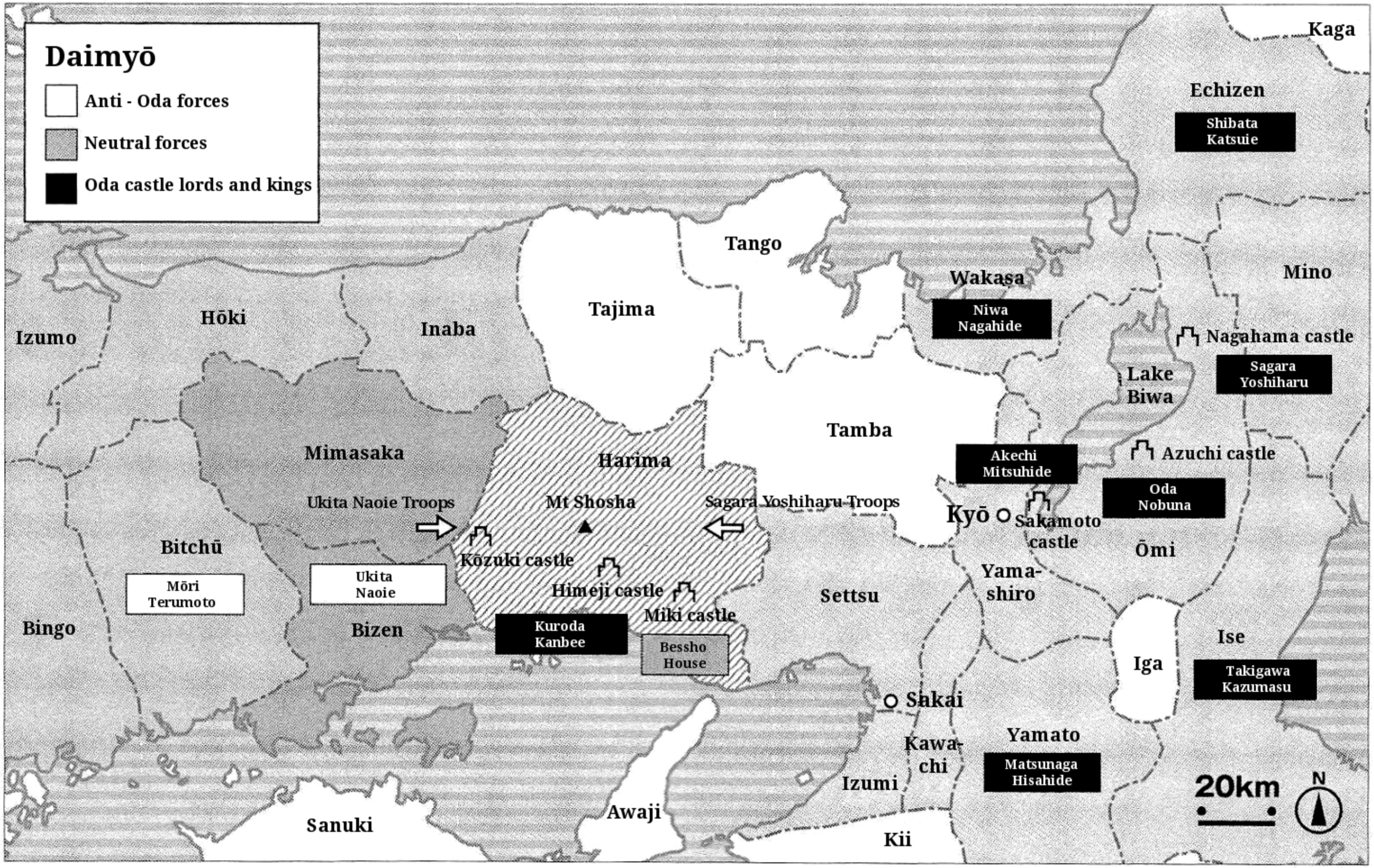
MAP

大名
反織田勢力
中立勢力
織田家の城主・国主

加賀
越前
柴田勝家
美濃
丹後
若狭
丹羽長秀
但馬
伯耆
出雲
因幡
長浜城
相良良晴
琵琶湖
丹波
明智光秀
安土城
織田信奈
京
坂本城
近江
美作
播磨
書写山
宇喜多直家軍
上月城
相良良晴軍
備中
毛利輝元
宇喜多直家
姫路城
山城
摂津
備後
備前
黒田官兵衛
三木城
別所家
伊勢
滝川一益
伊賀
堺
大和
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松永久秀
和泉
淡路
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MAP



Cartography: limited company Map Shop Morison

Chapter 1 : The Shogun of Letters, Ashikaga Yoshiaki's Plot

The location is at Aki province (The current Hiroshima), the main province of the tyrant of Chuugoku Mori clan , inside a shrine floating on the Setouchi seas, the Itsukushima shrine.

The reason why it's known as the shrine floating on the Setouchi seas is because during high tide, the seawater will flood the beach and the path to the shrine, creating an illusion that the structure is floating on the sea.

Today, on the stage of this Itsukushima shrine, a Noh is ongoing.

[1]

But the one enjoying the show isn't the third master of the Mori clan, the young Mori Terumoto.

Because he was down with a cold, Terumoto is currently resting.

For the one who is currently sitting on Terumoto's seat ....

"Hehe, the performance is quite good, isn't it? I can witness for myself your loyalty towards the shogun!"

宇喜多直家（うきたなおいえ）

足利義昭（あしかがよしあき）

Looking at the direction the voice came from, a small girl is waving a fan while shouting loudly "Bravo".

Seemingly like a chibi version of Imagawa, the exceedingly arrogant and young princess knight is...

"I'm the authentic shogun, Ashikaga Yoshiaki! Hohoho !"

[2]

Correct, Ashikaga Yoshiaki.

After learning swordplay skills from her brother Ashikaga Yoshiteru and succeeding the shogun position from him, she who had escaped to the Ming dynasty had returned to Japan alone to restore the Ashikaga shogunate.

"I'm different from that swordplay idiot Aniue, to restore the shogunate, I will use up all my wits and cunning as well as deploy as many daimyos as I can, hohoho!!" as she talks about her interest.

"Wait, let's write a reprimanding letter to that fake shogun, Imagawa Yoshimoto. Hohoho, my mood

becomes better upon imagining her pale expression right after receiving the letter from this true blue shogun. "Oda Nobuna that woman, you evil demon, you are my enemy as long as you're friends with such a person, Idiot... idiot. ..."" Correct, her interest is writing letters.

And the contents of the letter was filled with things like putting Nobuna down, praising herself and empty promises of rewards.

"Hoo, my mood is much better after writing those things about Oda Nobuna. Anyway, when does the Mori army plan to head towards the capital?"

"The position of the Mori clan is a little difficult, we have to make sure the way and the supply lines are open, and with the preparations added in, we need another month if everything goes smoothly."

"Fufu, it'll be too late if we wait that long!"

"How about we send someone who doesn't mind dying like a cannonball to the frontlines?"

"Not a cannonball Aneue, it's vanguard."

"Correct, cannonball or vanguard, let's hurry and send them out!"

吉川元春

小早川隆景

Standing at each side of Yoshiaki is the "two Kawas of Mori" helping the third master of the Mori clan, Terumoto.

So as to say, the twin daughters of the first's Motonari who had grown the clan to the tyrant of Chuugoku from just a small clan,

Kikkawa Motoharu and Kobayakawa Takakage.

The two who are in charge of all matters of the Mori clan summoned back Ukita Naoie from Bizen and gave him new orders.

The twins, Kikkawa Motoharu and Kobayakawa Takakage have indistinguishable beauty, but in terms of their character, they are opposites end of the stick.

The younger sister Kobayakawa Takakage is always expressionless like wearing a Noh mask, nicknamed, " The calm one" but the elder sister is instead rash and is called as "The brave one"

Even at such a situation, both Takakage and Motoharu have their weapons with them.

Takakage is a specialist in the bow and arrow.

And Motoharu who used the katana "Himekiri" is renowned for her iai strikes.

The energetic Motoharu wore a headband with the words "Superior Mori".

Though what she wants might be to distinguish herself from Takakage, but in terms of the modern world, it's the attire of the yakuzas.

The order the two gave Ukita Naoie in front of Ashikaga Yoshiaki is,

"Just like what you've seen, the shogun had asked for the help of the Mori clan."

"Chase the Oda clan who is supporting the fake shogun Imagawa Yoshimoto out from Kyoto! We're relying on you."

"We the Mori clan have always been not involved in the war for the world according to the rules set by the first."

"But if it's the order of shogun-sama...."

"We can't reject, and rather than waiting for Oda Nobuna to invade, it's better if we lead all our troops to send the shogun back to Kyoto."

"Oh! Go give Oda Nobuna a hard time!"

"The first showdown we will have with the Oda clan will be at Settsu, the Harima region near the mountain fort.

"So Ukita, you who has control over Bizen, the passageway between Harima and Mimasaka, go and die now!"

"Ehh, Kikakawa is scary..." Yoshiaki is so afraid that she dodged to the back of Kobayakawa Takakage.

"Cough, you are in the presence of the shogun, Aneue. Please be more elegant in your words."

"Uhh, it's my fault, Takakage."

Motoharu lowered her head at her younger sister with a sorry face.

"The endlessly cunning warrior, Ukita Naoie, we sisters do not trust you, one of the 3 evils in the world for now."

"Go and defeat the Oda clan if you want to gain our trust."

"We will appoint you as our vanguard in our war against the Oda, before the main army of the Mori clan reaches, clean up our path towards Kyo."

"Exactly."

"And there's one other thing, the one who rules Izumo, the remnants of the Amago clan, Yamanaka Shikanosuke is planning to harm us."

"You must capture that fellow."

"Yamanaka Shikanosuke had once surrendered to us, but she had soon escaped and gathered the remnants of the Amago clan to wreak havoc."

"The Mori clan had forgiven her once due to our magnanimous hearts, but such a thing cannot happen again."

"Though it's regretful if we kill her, but that person will never surrender to the Mori clan as long as she's alive, as well as retire. No matter how many times it take, she will be against us, giving a fast death to such a person is already quite generous."

"Just like what Takakage said, finish off that Yamanaka Shikanosuke."

Yoshiaki who does not understand the dialect of Kikakawa had a puzzled expression.

"Cough, please refrain from using the dialect of Aki at such a time, Aneue."

"Uhh, I got it, Takakage."

Not caring about her blush, Motoharu who was keep being reminded by her younger sister swings her " Himekiri" with a speed that the eye can't catch at the front of Ukita Naoie, but he didn't shift his body at all due to this.

Swoosh.

A butterfly who had always been between them fell down to the ground.

And by this time, Motoharu's Himekiri is back in it's sheathe.

"Ukita Naoie, if you dare betray us, this will be your result."

"In this battle, if you contribute, we will acknowledge that you're a retainer of the Mori clan, Bizen and Mimasaka's 500k yield will still be your territory, and if your achievements are remarkable, we will even reward you with more land. The renowned Mori clan will definitely go through with their promises."

"We have no need for hostages, we are choosing to trust you this time, but!"

"If you did not conquer Harima castle or capture Yamanaka Shikanosuke before we enter Harima, we are taking back Bizen and Mimasaka's 500k yield."

"Takakage, at the same time we take back the land, how about we ask him to commit seppuku too?"

"No, Aneue. If we ask him to do that, we won't be able to enjoy chasing a whipped dog to his death at the Oda clan's hands."

"Hmmm, I see."

"You got it, right, Ukita Naoie? If you dare betray our expectations, you will have no place left in Chuugoku."

"Conquer Harima in one breath."

"The Mori army will be there anytime, so continue on with no worries."

"I understand."

Ukita Naoie lift his head with a cold smile.

Ukita Naoie...

This man had become a daimyo of Bizen Mimasaka from a vagrant by assassinating, sowing discord or plotting against the nobles.

Such a Naoie is willing to follow his enemy the Mori clan , the first reason is because he wants to sever all relationship with his ex-master.

The second reason is because, the provinces that the Mori clan govern did not weaken at all even after the death of the first. The twin sisters who had inherited wit and bravery had established a firm governing structure.

Naoie predicted that if he wants to survive in the territory war of the Chuugoku region, he needs to follow the Mori clan.

"Leave it to me, the "Princess knight killer"."

Naoie is a good looking guy aged the later half of his 30s, nearing 40s.

It was said that he had the looks that are even better than girls when he was young, though he's no longer young now, he has the charming look of a mature man.

It's just that he always have a devious smile on his face .

That smile didn't disappear even after Kikkawa Motoharu used her Lai strike to threaten him.

On his waist wasn't a katana but a short arquebus.

As the newest product from namban, this short arquebus is much shorter than other arquebuses and so, can be hanged on the waist like a katana.

Takakage and Motoharu look at that arquebus with suspicious eyes.

The traditional Mori clan has no interest towards the namban culture and Christianity which is currently in trend.

Though they did purchase arquebus, but the Mori clan view those as just assassination weapons.

Yoshiaki peeked out from Kobayakawa Takakage's back and looked at Naoie's waist with interest and said,

"What a peculiar tool."

"Till now, how many have you killed with that short tool, Ukita Naoie?"

"This is a little... no, very despicable."

"Who knows, I have not counted at all."

"I must say it out first, Oda Nobuna isn't someone you can assassinate."

"It's like what you said."

"You should know too, Oda Nobuna had defiantly lived on despite being sniped by Sugitani Zenjuurou."

"Is there a chance for you who claimed to be "Princess knight killer"?"

"Or are you planning to escape to the Oda clan worrying that your land will be confiscated?"

"How can that be, if I really planned anything like that, I would have assassinated you sisters just now."

The rash Motoharu reached for the Himekiri on her waist without thinking, but Takakage had stopped her.

"Can I treat the words you said just now as a pledge of loyalty?"

"Haha~ I had dreamt of keeping the twins of the Mori clan as my women, "Princess Knight Killer" has such a meaning too."

"Ho....How dare you! To actually say such rude words! I'm killing you!"

"Don't be provoked, Aneue, leave it to me."

"But Takakage..."

"Ukita Naoie, if you betray us, we will lead the whole of the Mori army and flatten the whole of Bizen and Mimasaka, as well as taking your life."

"That's regrettable, you have no interest in being my woman?"

"Before we sisters have helped the third to become independent, we have absolutely no interest in men."

"Hmmm, things like men will just interrupt with the training of our martial arts."

"Then after the third becomes independent?"

"Hmph, even if there's only you left in the whole world, we will definitely not choose you."

"Wh...What joke is this!? Shameless!"

To Naoie's words, Takakage gave a cold smile but Motoharu blushed and once again reached for her Himekiri, but Takakage stopped her again.

"Then I will just woo the third. Though she's still a child, but when she grows up, she will definitely be a beauty. I can just make that child mine."

"You...What did you say!"

"I can do a thing like taking the shogun as my woman too, but I have to wait another 10 years for that~ I'm no longer young, I can't wait that long."

"You brute!"

Ignoring the fuming Motoharu, Naoie said, "Then I shall follow my orders, conquering Harima or capturing Yamanaka Shikanosuke, I will become serious if I have to protect my 500k yield~ What a difficult job." as he turned his back and returned to land.

Ashikaga Yoshiaki looked at Ukita Naoie's back and said worryingly,

"Is this really ok? Ukita Naoie is a cunning hypocrite with a bad personality, a bad person no different from

beasts. It's too strange for the Mori clan to accept him as a retainer, is it really ok to not take any hostages?"

But the two Kawas of the Mori clan weren't shaken.

"If that fellow betrayes the Mori clan, we will smash him to pieces from the back with the full forces of our Mori army. If he chooses to not do anything, we will have the right to confiscate his lands. He who already has a bad reputation will not harm the reputation of the Mori clan no matter what he does. At such a critical situation, he can only do his best for us."

"Kobayakawa is so smart, as expected of the elite."

"We can use Ukita Naoie to study the strategies of the Oda clan and wait patiently for our chance. Thanks to shogun-sama's letters, chances will definitely be there for us!" "Hmmm!"

"And it's useless even if we are to keep hostages, shogun-sama. To that person, a hostage's life is not worth shit."

"You have a point, Kikakawa! Cough cough, I will never forget the loyalty of the Mori clan! After I return to Kyoto, not just Chuugoku, I will give Shikoku and Kyushu to you! All in all, I will never treat you badly!"

"Thank you so much!"

Yoshiaki start dancing in joy.

"Just you wait, Oda Nobuna, your good days will soon come to an end."

The hot-blooded Kikakawa Motoharu had always been unsatisfied with the first's "Don't lust upon the world.".

"The Kyoto people actually dare to classify our proud Grilled okonomiyaki with Hiroshima's okonomiyaki, unforgivable!"

It's only the careful Kobayakawa who feels a tiny feeling of worry.

(We can't use logic to judge Oda Nobuna and that Sagara Yoshiharu who came from the future is someone

whose strength we can't estimate. And there are rumors recently that the genius strategist Kuroda Kanbei had joined the Oda clan, I'm afraid it won't go smoothly.)

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Chapter 2 : The Ambition of Kuroda Kanbei

Kyoto, Honnou temple.

Not long after the celebrations end, the tea master Sen no Rikyuu introduced a young princess knight.

Rikyuu is a female tea master wearing gothic lolita attire as she strives on combining Christian concepts into tea ceremonies.

Today, the princess knight she passionately introduced to Nobuna is...

"My Christian name is Don Simon, Harima's Himeji castle's master. Original name is Kuroda Kanbei."

Kuroda Kanbei is a young princess knight wearing a namban black shirt and a black namban hat.

Though her age is younger than Takenaka Hanbei by 1 or 2 years, but in her eyes, there's full of confidence and resolve in pursuing her dreams.

And she had unshakable confidence that she herself is the smartest in Japan.

Ever since Kuroda Kanbei started remembering things, her behavior had been different from other children.

She's extremely clever, but was isolated by others due to this.

Luckily, her father Kuroda Souen understands her, identifying her abnormal talent when she's still little, he had given up his position as the master of Himeji castle and retired, he even agreed to her travelling around to gain more knowledge.

"Simon's skin color became tanned when I was learning namban "Mechanics" in Kyuushu! It's not natural that I'm tanned!"

Kanbei's tone is crisp and dignified.

Compared to Rikyuu who loves namban culture but is always quiet, there's a refreshing difference.

"Dearuka, Harima's Kuroda Kanbei... Both Viper and Saru have said that you are one of the two best strategists in the world so you have become a Christian."

Because of the rapid expanding of territories, Nobuna is currently in a dire situation of lacking talents, so Rikyuu introducing Kuroda Kanbei is in good timing.

Sagara Yoshiharu is at Northern Omi, Shibata Katsuie and Inuchiyo are at Echizen, Niwa Nagahide is at Wakasa, Akechi Mitsuhide is currently conquering Tamba, after sending all of them out, there is basically no one at Nobuna's side. Though it's not like she had not thought of discovering talents, but there's only ordinary people in the territories she has.

As her god-brother, Asai Nagamasa who was supposed to be Nobuna's arms is already "dead", this is very unfortunate.

"A strategist that knows namban science, that's quite refreshing."

"Sim!"

"Shimu?"

"It means "Yes" in Portuguese, Simon is very skilled in the different languages of the namban countries, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian, English and Latin are all languages I can speak, because I'm a genius."

"Eh! You are so young yet you are already so capable! Why do you want to serve under me?"

"Simon's dream is to board a ship to tour the different countries of namban and learn the different countries culture and knowledge. To fulfill this dream, just being the master of the Himeji castle isn't enough, helping Oda Nobuna who has the same interest in namban and helping her fulfill her dream of unifying the world is the fastest route."

Looks like Kanbei's objective is to create her own ship to tour the world after Nobuna unifies the world so as to fulfill her own dream.

"Dearuka, with just the fact that you know the different languages of the namban countries has already made me want you!"

Both Nobuna and Kanbei are very similar, both of them have intense curiosity, towards a new culture, their

understanding and speed of adapting is very different from Japanese of the same era, and finally, both of them long for the world across the wide seas.

So even though it's the first time they meet, they are like good friends of many years.

Kanbei always has a worry and that is whether Sagara Yoshiharu who had came from the future might be the biggest obstacle towards the path of Nobuna's unification of the world.

The close relationship between Sagara Yoshiharu and Oda Nobuna had already spread far and wide, every time Sagara Yoshiharu who knows of the future changes history, Nobuna will be in an even bigger crisis.

(No matter how I think about it, Imagawa Yoshimoto should have died in Okehazama, because of Sagara Yoshiharu's needless interference, the history has changed to the Oda clan supporting Imagawa Yoshimoto and the Mori clan supporting Ashikaga Yoshiaki.)

(If not for this Sagara Yoshiharu, the Oda clan will be supporting the true shogun Ashikaga Yoshiaki, though he himself may think that he is doing it for the Oda clan, but in actual fact, he has interrupted the Oda clan's quest

of unification. If that's the case, Simon will be very troubled, the only warrior who has the capabilities and the attitude to fly towards the world is Oda Nobuna.)

Able to see through things to such an extent, it shows that Kanbei had immeasurable intelligence.

To solve this problem, Kanbei had thought of a solution.

(I Simon will be the one to force Sagara Yoshiharu back to the future, though it's not something I can do immediately, but with the correct "tools" I can do it and Oda Nobuna's fate won't be disturbed anymore.)

Though Kanbei does not have any evil intentions, but this idea of hers is a huge obstacle for Nobuna and Yoshiharu.

Kanbei did not explain to Nobuna about her own plans.

Though Kanbei is always forthright, but the missionary Frois had warned her.

"If you really wish to serve under the Oda clan, things like sending Yoshiharu-san back to the future must never

be spoken to anyone, if you can, please give up on the plan itself."

Though Kanbei didn't plan to give up on this, but it looks like if she said it, she won't be able to serve under the Oda clan.

"Anyway Harima..."

"Harima?"

"Your new nickname."

"Nickname?"

Kanbei is a little displeased, Harima and Kanbei, these two words are bad memories for Kanbei, every time she thought of that isolated and stubborn hometown and those traditional nobles back there, Kanbei feels anger creeping up in her heart.

Of course, it's impossible for Nobuna to know such a thing as she continues "Harima, Harima" and called out to her.

(I heard close friends will always use nicknames to call out to each other.) After Kanbei started to think in a good direction, her mood became better.

Basically, Kanbei's personality is that she will think in a good direction no matter how things are.

With modern words, she is very optimistic.

"Harima, didn't you think of unifying the world yourself?"

"Hmmm~ Though it's not like I can't do it myself, but Simon wants to become the smartest in the world ASAP, if I become the queen of this country, I won't be able to concentrate on researching and studying namban science , so Simon thinks that it's better for Oda Nobuna to be the queen."

"Hehe, you're really a weird person, Hanbei too. Looks like strategists are a different creature compared to normal warriors."

"It's just that the responsibilities everyone has is different."

"Now that the Mori clan is supporting Ashikaga Yoshiaki and declaring war on Oda clan, you Harima coming to serve under us is what I can't wish for more right now. Harima province which is in the centre of Chuugoku and Kyoto is the place of conflict."

"There's a total of 36 nobles currently in Harima, all of them have been fighting and resisting each other and so, Harima didn't have a ruler. And since the power struggle between the Oda clan and the Mori clan has not reached Harima, it can be said that the one who controls Harima in this battle will be the victor."

"Correct, the Mori clan must have realized this too."

"Sim, I will let Himeji castle be the base of the Oda troops."

"Is it really ok, don't you mind?"

"Simon has totally no interest in the governing of territories and honor now, to fulfill the dream of studying overseas in namban, Simon will help Oda Nobuna with all her strength!"

"....."

Rikyuu used her unique way to "say" "She is my disciple in tea ceremonies when we're learning about namban science in Sakai."

Able to make people understand what she meant by not saying a word is Rikyuu's unique ability.

"Eh, Harima is Rikyuu's disciple, there are many Christians in Rikyuu's disciples."

"....."

Rikyuu "said" "My tea ceremonies and the Christian culture are hard to separate."

"How nostalgic. During that period of time, Sensei was actually researching on alchemy while Simon was learning about namban divination, our love for namban attires started from that time."

"....."

Rikyuu "said" "I'm pursuing the unique path of incorporating alchemy into tea ceremonies and due to being amazed by the namban divination, Simon had gone to Kyushuu which had more Christians alone to learn about "Mechanics".

"This country has its own divination methods, but those ancient methods are strategists using their fortune sticks to predict whether their conquest will end well, I don't believe this at all. Fufu, namban divination is totally different from Asian divination, we use tarot cards instead of fortune sticks."

"Tarot cards?"



"The namban divination tarot cards are very accurate, how about you try it now, Oda Nobuna? Is there anything you want to know, like your love fortune or your quest towards the Tenka Fubu?"

"Dearuka, divination is a sort of entertainment after all , let's try love fortune."

"Then please draw a card from here."

Kanbei put down a deck of tarot cards from namban onto the tatami mat.

The skeptic Nobuna draws one card out from the deck.

"What a strange drawing, a slanted structure which is burning, what's this?"

The tarot card that Nobuna used her white fingers to hold on to it depicts an almost collapsing structure that is burning fiercely.

"Hmm, it's not a good card, that's the "Tower"."

"Tower?"

"It hints an ending of disaster, destruction and tragedy. Though I'm sorry but it looks like Oda Nobuna's romance will end very badly."

"I...I don't believe in things like divination! Even if it's from namban, divination is still divination. You said this is different from fortune sticks, what logic does this have ?"

"Rather than divination, it's more of an evaluation of the subconscious. The one who draw the tarot card will subconsciously draw the card that hints at their own future."

"Really?"

"This time, let's try the fate of Tenka Fubu then."

Kanbei took back the "Tower" card and after shuffling them, she once again put the tarot cards in front of Nobuna.

"This time, I must draw a good card!"

But after glancing at it, Nobuna shouted "No way this is true!".

"It's the "Tower" again! What is this, do I have fate in this card?"

"There's a total of 22 types of tarot cards, the "Tower" is just one of them."

"Suspicious, why do I draw this "Tower" card consecutively for two times?"

"This hints that the Tenka Fubu will fail tragically, and it's at the same time when your romance ends, does this means that the one that Oda Nobuna loves is very bad luck?"

Kanbei thought "As expected, Sagara Yoshiharu will disturb Oda Nobuna's fate severely."

Nobuna angrily puffed up her cheeks and said, " Hmph, I don't really care about things like divination since it's just a game. The one I'm really interested is " Mechanics", that huge metallic doll in the courtyard is the new weapon that Harima invented?"

At the direction that Nobuna is looking at, the metallic giant that Kanbei brought was standing alone at the courtyard of Honnou temple.

To this, the monks feeling had been increasingly troubled.

"It's very annoying for that to be placed there."

"It's bulky and heavy, we can't move it at all."

"That "Oh~It stopped"? That is a humanoid weapon that can walk with it's legs using the logic of "Mechanics" with the power of magnets. Soldiers can sit in it's abdomen and control the direction it's moving like a helm on the ship. Because there's very thick metal plates all over it's body, it can easily withstand arquebus bullets and it does not need to consume rations like horses."

"Wow! If we can mass produce this, the Takeda cavalry won't be scary anymore!"

"I don't think that's feasible. Honestly, it's still a prototype, and there's still lots to be done before it's completed, and "Oh~It stopped" is a very new discovery even in namban science, it's too difficult to use it in actual battles right now."

"Eh, how can that be? I can give you all the funding you need, can't it be done?"

"After experimenting, I found out that using legs to move around is harder than imagined, even if Simon tried at it, she will need more than 10 years to complete it ."

"Then let's not use legs to move, how about using wheels?"

"Hmmm, that's a way to do it, but the terrain of this country are mostly narrow and mountainous, the flexibility of wheels is hard to ensure so it's also impossible to use it in actual battles too."

"Looks like the legs is a necessary condition that "Eh~ It stopped." to be used in actual battles."

"Exactly, but using wheels is not that bad of a suggestion, I feel that it will someday be useful."

"You're really a genius, Harima! If you take this "Eh~It stopped" to Saru, he will definitely be shocked! Though that fellow had came from the future, his brain isn't that good and his math is even worse than Nene, fuu."

Kanbei almost let it spill out of her mouth, "Umm, if you don't hurry and clarify your close relationship with Sagara Yoshiharu.....!"

But she can't say it like that, she must endure it right now.

Before this, Frois had already warned Kanbei.

"Once Yoshiharu-san is mentioned, Nobuna won't be able to remain calm."

A feeling like love, Kanbei who had never experienced it before won't be able to understand, but it looks to be so .

But, Kanbei understands one thing too.

Nobuna had drawn the "Tower" both in her love and work, that means that the same time her work on unifying the world and her love is fulfilled, they will all fail due to the same reason.

Though it's hard to explain with science, but tarot cards which used psychology are able to drag out the subconscious that the targets themselves are unable to understand. Because the future is an extension of themselves, so everyone had more or less a hunch of their own fate.

From Kanbei's perspective,

(Whether it's the unrecognized love with Sagara Yoshiharu, or the unification of the world, she had a hunch of failure already. The smart Oda Nobuna actually understands all this deep in her heart, the love that will never be acknowledged by the world will disturb her fate and in the end, will lead everything to their ruins.)

If Oda Nobuna is defeated in the middle of her quest, my dream of studying overseas will become non-existent .

Kanbei's determination to send Sagara Yoshiharu back to the future is even more firm now.

But, for this objective, there are "tools" that she has to gather.

(To be able to gather the "tools", we must fight with the Mori clan and let the forces of the Oda clan extend towards the Chuugoku region, there is a necessary "tool" in the power region of the Mori clan, Simon must get it ASAP!)

So Kanbei wants to serve under Nobuna as strategist and help her defeat the Mori clan.

But, even with the intelligence of Kanbei, she wasn't able to predict the next sentence from Nobuna.

"Harima, work as Saru's strategist from today onwards then!"

Even Kanbei was so shocked that the teacup she held dropped onto the tatami mat.

Why did it becomes like this!? I can't understand this at all!

"Letting Simon be Sagara Yoshiharu's strategist? Why? "

"Isn't that fellow totally unclear of what a daimyo should do? If you aren't by his side to help him, his life will instantly become that of gathering the bishoujos of Northern Omi and start his disgusting life of a harem!"

"But didn't Sagara Yoshiharu already have a genius strategist like Takenaka Hanbei by his side to help him?"

"Hanbei is only interested in strategies and omyoudou, she isn't that interested in governing. That's it then, you are to head out to Saru right now. Oh yeah, take this!"

"This sword is...?"

"My beloved sword, Kunishige Hasabe, I'm giving it to you now, Harima. If that Saru dares to cheat, use this to cut him down! That fellow will be lusting after other girls when you turn your eyes away from him a little, and he's ok with ANYONE!"

Nobuna who had been very calm till now suddenly blushed as she shouted loudly.

"Th...though this is a secret, but th... th.... that fellow has already kissed my lips! Ev...Even so, he is still so close and comfy with lots of girls, yo....you can't believe what he's doing too, right!?"

Those bloodshot eyes of hers are full of jealousy and fury, as well as very strong feelings of possession.

"So, that rumor is true?"

Kanbei took the few newspapers from Sakai and Kyoto out and put it in front of Nobuna.

"Sakai's Business Newspaper" writes, [SHOCKING! THE DAILY LIFE FILLED WITH TWISTED ROMANCE BETWEEN ODA NOBUNA AND THE MONKEY SHE KEEPS?]

"Kennya's Monthly" writes, [RIDICULOUS! THE MOST FRIVOLOUS MAN IN THE WORLD SAGARA YOSHIHARU IMPRISONS HIS OWN MASTER ODA NOBUNA IN HIS ROOM AND TRAINS HER EVERY NIGHT!]

"Kawaramachi's Daily" writes [LOVING SAGARA YOSHIHARU, ODA NOBUNA PLANS TO BURN DOWN THE PALACE TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS ON FAMILY STATUSES?]

Though they are all baseless rumors, but from what they can see, the close relationship between Nobuna and Yoshiharu is under extreme scrutiny of the people.

With modern words, they had become daily gossip of people after their meals.

"Wh....What are all these!? Ho...How can they just come out with these rumors.... Capture all of them and throw them all into the sea!"

"....."

While silently pouring grape wine into Nobuna's teacup, Rikyuu "said", "If you do that, that means you are acknowledging that the rumors are true.." as she stopped her.

"I don't mind if it's all bad rumors about Saru, but saying I'm burning the palace down is unforgivable! If they think they can just write anything they want and not receive any punishment, they are wrong!"

"....."

Rikyuu "said", "This is just the anti-Oda forces using Sagara Yoshiharu-dono's rumors to attack the Oda clan, those printing companies aren't much at fault, please calm down."

But Nobuna can't keep her voice down as she screams,

"Ahhhhhh, unforgivable! This is all the fault of that ero-saru! Because of his boundless lust, even my reputation is affected!"

Looking at such a Nobuna, Kanbei is shocked (Is this love? So it's like what I thought, a thing like love will really cause people to be blind.)

The things that the unlucky "Tower" card hinted may really happen.

"Saru that fellow, whether it's Takeda Shingen or Akechi Mitsuhide, he does not mind it at all as he just goes around being frivolous and perverted! Takeda Shingen is my arch enemy, Saru who is close to her is just too despicable! Honestly, I won't be surprised if Saru attacks Imagawa Yoshimoto now! If that fellow does anything that betrays me, cut him down immediately! Got it, Harima? This is your most important mission!"

"Simon still has the mission of fighting with the Mori clan."

"The first to move wins, the vanguard of fighting the Mori clan will be undertaken by Saru who isn't surrounded by any enemy provinces! Before preparing fully for the war with the Mori clan, slap his butt and ask him to buck up, conquer Harima province in one go!"

"Sim"

Nobuna very happily said, "With this, the frivolous-ness of Saru will be sealed, I'm relying on you now, Harima! Once I finish the work on my hands, I will immediately go over to meet up with you guys." as she leaves quickly.

(Am I wrong?)

For the first time, Kanbei has a sense of unease in her judgments.

But, it's unfortunate that no one can do divination on themselves.

Even if they do it, with their own thoughts mixed in it, the result will become unclear.

That Sagara Yoshiharu who came from the future and messed up Nobuna's fate, (Though Kanbei is the only one who thinks like this)

Looks like I have to make preparations to send him off the same time I'm fighting the Mori clan.

But to be able to let the talented and passionate Oda Nobuna be obsessed to such an extent, just what kind of a man is this Sagara Yoshiharu?

Kanbei's heart develops a new curiosity.

Now that she thinks about it, being Yoshiharu's strategist and fighting with the Mori clan might be the perfect turn of events.

For the reason, isn't the best chance to force Yoshiharu back to the future to prevent an even larger change of history?

Considering the different possibilities, Kanbei firmly believes that the only one who can unify the world is Oda Nobuna.

Of course, there will be many problems in the way, but with me, the genius strategist at her side to help, there won't be any problems.

But, because Sagara Yoshiharu is always doing unnecessary things, the fate of Oda Nobuna had become hard to grasp.

"Able to draw the "Tower" both times is definitely Sagara Yoshiharu's fault."

Even Kanbei who had not been in love before can see that Nobuna does not want Yoshiharu to be send back to the future.

So, she must be by Yoshiharu's side and wait for her chance, once one shows itself, she will do it before telling Nobuna.

To achieve this objective, one of the "tools" is concidentally buried in the territories of the Mori clan. To obtain it, we must first absorb the Mori clan or at least make them serve.

The rest of the "tools" are all within the territories of Nobuna, there's only one left that she can't get.

Once I lead the Sagara corps to defeat the Mori clan, Sagara Yoshiharu and the "tools" to force him back will be all in my hands.

After that, I need to explain to Nobuna properly, she will definitely be able to understand.

"Hehe, with this, the world will belong to Oda Nobuna , and Simon can head out onto the wide seas and onwards to the world."

"....."

Rikyuu "said", "The aura around Simon, is she having some weird plans in her head?"

(Should I at least tell Sensei?) Kanbei thought as she finally decided to wait a while more before telling her.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Chapter 3 : Master of Nagahama Castle, Sagara Yoshiharu

"Finally you brat has become a master of a castle and province! Now we need to call you with a -sama. Wahahaha!"

"As expected of Sagara Yoshiharu who our boss chose, no, our Sagara-sama!"

"What a unprecedented rise in status!"

"But if you attacked Boss, even if it's you, we the Kawanami clan will definitely rebel!"

"Boss!"

"Is forever!"

"Pure!"

"You guys.... All of you are already samurais of the Oda clan, yet you are still the same old....."

I'm sleepy.

Sagara Yoshiharu yawned.

Moving from Kyo all the way to Northern Omi, he had not been sleeping as the celebrations continued through the nights.

From this point, these Kawanami clan people who are used to celebrations are still full of energy.

After the end of the rewarding ceremony at the Honnou temple, Yoshiharu who had rushed out of Kyo to head towards Northern Omi had entered Nagahama castle by Lake Biwa. The city of Imahama had been changed to Nagahama too.

The reason why the name was changed is because in the event after the Asai clan was destroyed in the Sengoku game "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou", Kinoshita Tokichirou who had become the daimyo of Northern Omi had changed it's name to Nagahama.

Same as Mitsuhide's Sakamoto castle and the Azuchi castle that Nobuna built, Nagahama castle is a small size water fort.

With the castle walls directly in Lake Biwa, ships are cruising in and out from the gates.

"We are the guys who became Master's retainers in Kanegasaki."

"There isn't another day we are more happy than this."

"Those comrades who died in Kanegasaki must be glad for us in the heavens~"

Though there aren't many men in the Sagara corps, but that those men who had gone through the hellish Kanegasaki had made them even more united.

Yoshiharu nodded and agreed, "Somehow, we've reached here."

"Yeah. The graves of Tokichirou-jii-san and the comrades of Kanegasaki, we should erect them properly! "

Jii-san's dream is to become a master of a province and open up a harem!

Now, I who has succeeded the dream is just one step away!

No, if I really open up a harem, I'll be killed by Nobuna so that's not going to happen!

"You've finally made a name for yourself as a daimyo, Nii-sama! Nene is elated! Good Job~ Good Job~"

Sitting on Yoshiharu's lap and emitting "Swoosh~" sounds, a tearful Nene is sucking in a bowl of mackerel vermicelli, a delicacy of Northern Omi.

This mackerel vermicelli is a traditional delicacy of Northern Omi by serving vermicelli with a fried mackerel on top. Honestly, though there's a taste of mackerel, but it's not a bad food.

But, the tradition of eating the mackerel vermicelli as a snack is totally like the Osaka's fried noodle tradition. So what is going on, is the vermicelli unnecessary? Yoshiharu started thinking.

"Nii-sama, please eat some mackerel vermicelli too!"

"It's all thanks to you Nene that I can be here today. Thank you."

"Good~ You didn't put aside your work to chase after girls and have been enduring till now! An ero-saru like brother who likes girls... it's almost like a miracle! This is all Nene's good work!"

"There's something wrong with the way you are feeling touched, right!?"

"I have fulfilled the promise with Hime-sama properly, Nii-sama. From today onwards, you don't need to endure any longer, just go to the town and gather many cute girls and have some children!"

"Huh!? Wh...Wh....What are you talking about?"

"Nii-sama is already a daimyo now. Producing a heir is a very important job!"

"No, I..... It's true that I like the best girl in the world but I don't plan to be so popular as to open up a harem, ok?"

Yoshiharu hugged Nene as he shivered.

If he really did something like that, he's going to be whipped by Nobuna and executed. Recently, that fellow isn't hiding her jealousy at all.

"I see. If you understand it to such an extent, then marry this Nene as your wife!"

"Huh!? Why did it become like this!? Aren't you my sister?"

"You like the best bishoujo of Owari, Nene like your soul is taken. Being disinterested to other girls, I can understand that~ Nii-sama! Though I'm your sister, but we're not related by blood, so you can just marry Nene as your wife anytime!"

The strategist Takenaka Hanbei and his retainers all rolled their eyes.

"We've really seen a lolicon in need of saving, Yoshiharu-san. Fufu~"

"What a bother yet intensely admirable, but if it's not Boss, I can allow it."

"To bare your fangs at such a young sister, Master is really quite a crazy bastard."

"It's a misunderstanding!"

"You lolicon, how admirable!" The Kawanami clan said in unison.

"It does not matter how you explain, you're a lolicon, Sagara-shi~"

Goemon is wearing her usual ninja garb today too as she hangs on the ceiling.

"It's ok if you come down too, Goemon. Are you going to be a ninja all the time? You are now the chief advisor of the Sagara clan, a warrior of the warring states, Hachisuka Goemon."

"I will be a ninja all my life. If I skip training even one day, my ninja skillsh would deshline!"

"Well~ O...Ok then."

"Boss stutters again.....!" Kawanami clan shouted in unison.

"Shut up!"

It doesn't seem like there's a feeling of being a daimyo here, Yoshiharu thought.

As expected of the official Sagara corps, the rules of the era of five leaf aralia houses didn't change.

"Inuchiyo has been sent to be part of Katsuie's retainers, I'm a little lonely... She has always been by my side."

"You are a lolicon as expected."

"Everyone, the celebration ends here. We will need to dive into our jobs tomorrow since, the master of Northern Omi is replaced from the Asai clan to the Sagara clan."

"What does Nii-sama want Nene to do?"

"Ahh. It's ok if Nene continues playing around."

"Uhh~Uhh~Uhh. Like what you said, I Nene am useless, Nii-sama? Uwahh~ Uhh, Uwahhhhhh!"

"Ahh~ Don't cry, don't cry! I get it already, Nene will use her cuteness and friendliness to help gather new retainers! We are totally short on manpower!"

Nene pat on her small chest and said, I got it.

"Don't gather small girls. Recommend some strong people who are skilled in spears, and also, gather some big sisters who look like they are smart and knows how to handle administrative tasks."

"I got it, Nii-sama! Leave it to Nene!"

"Listen. Don't find some girls that are of the same age as you. You should understand from the people in the celebrations, There are just too many lolicons. And I've no interest in small girls, and no wish to wrap them up into the war."

Nene.

Goemon.

And just from the age, you can't count her as a small girl, the chibi Hanbei.

I've now finally become a master of a province and castle, but now I'm not opening a harem but an elementary school..... While sighing at the celebration full of small girls, Yoshiharu said to Nene with an expression full of troubles and pain.

"Can I really govern this big piece of land properly, so. ..."

"Yeah. In actual fact, it's not as simple as eliminating rates that the prices will go up. And it's not like I can distribute the rations to gain the popularity of the people. What should I do?"

"Fufu~ I'm not good in politics too."

As she gazed upon Yoshiharu's face.

A small girl full of energy ran out from the courtyard.

"Morning. I'm the master of Harima's Himeji castle, Don Simon, aka Kuroda Kanbei. Upon Oda Nobuna's orders, I will be Sagara Yoshiharu's strategist."

Kacha Kacha!

Kuroda Kanbei sat on the humonculus "Oh~ It stopped", while destroying the city gates, it rushed into the courtyard of the main hall.

To show her face, she had opened the armor of it's abdomen area, showing them how she looked as she controls "Oh~It stopped."

She's an underaged girl.

In the midst of the celebration, she kicked up a big fuss akin to the fuss created by the Kurofune.

[3]

Why is it a small girl again, and anyway, isn't this the time to be shocked?

Because the first shock that Yoshiharu received, and a big shock at that is....

"Oi~Oi~ This is the Sengoku era! What's this, how can a robot that shouldn't exist in this era be standing right here?"

"A cute boy has joined the Sagara corps~~! We can accept this!" The Kawanami clan said in unison.

"You guys, there should be other things you are looking at!"

"How rude. Simon is a girl."

At the cockpit, Kanbei angrily pursed her lips.

"And we thought it's a cute boy, in actual fact, it's a small girl that has not become a maiden. This is unexpectedly alright with us~~!" The Kawanami clan shouted.

"Wh...What a bunch of scary fellows. I should just eliminate all of them."

"Uwahhh~ The metal monster is attacking us!!!" The Kawanami clan shouted.

Kanbei moves the "Oh~It stopped" and plans to mess the celebration up.

Yoshiharu hurried and stands in front of Kanbei.

"Oi~ Wait a minute! Kuroda Kanbei, is it? Isn't there a more suitable way of introducing yourself? You actually destroyed the gates!"

"Hoho. To display this Simon's talent, I must use the quickest way to present "Oh~It stopped". Sagara Yoshiharu, it's all for my ambition. I will serve under you ."

"What ambition? To take over the world?"

"Not that. It's useless to talk to you so I'm not saying it. "

Just what ambition is that? Yoshiharu does not understand at all.

But, there's one point he's very clear.

"She seems to be having the same overconfident face like Nobuna and Juubei-chan."

Yoshiharu noticed it only now.

(Kuroda Kanbei?)

Yes, she's the genius strategist comparable to Hanbei-chan! It's all because Tokichirou-jii-san had both Hanbei and Kanbei these two genius strategist that he is able to succeed as a retainer and finally become the ruler of men! It's like that, so it's not strange that Kuroda Kanbei had invented robots.... Eh, that's totally strange!

"Kuroda Kanbei, can you not destroy the atmosphere of the sengoku era that I have finally immersed myself in !? Don't swing around in that robot, it's very dangerous so come down quick!"

"Hoho. If you want me to come down, let Simon be the no 1 strategist."

"Uhh~ Uhh~ The strategist of the Sagara corps should have already been decided to be me, Hanbei.... Am I... going to be bullied? I don't have a good feeling about this ."

"You are the legendary Takenaka Hanbei, huh? Have a proper showdown with this Simon. The one who wins will be the no 1 strategist of the Sagara corps. This Simon hates being second."

Hanbei gazed at Kanbei's narrowing eyes.

An aura of a mischievous child, Yoshiharu thought.

Similar to Nobuna, Kanbei is filled with talent and ambition but suppressed (If these two are to clash, Japan is doomed). "But since I've planned to send Sagara Yoshiharu back to the future, I don't have any plans of acting like a child. And, it isn't a good thing to be compared to Takenaka Hanbei with everything I do. And it might even be a nuisance to the job of sending him back to the future."

"Uhh~ Uhh~ Nice to meet you, Kanbei-san.... I... I... I'm Ta....Takenaka.... Ha....Hanbei.... Umm.... ar... are you going to bully me?"

"Of course I am. This "Oh~It stopped" can even deflect bullets from tanegashimas. Hurry and fight with me."

"Uhh~ Uhh~ Yoshiharu-san, I don't want to fight with Kanbei-san."

"Oi~ Kuroda Kanbei. Our clan's motto is "United we stand". Be on better terms with Hanbei-chan!"

From the cockpit of her "Oh~It stopped", Kanbei stare at Yoshiharu's face with a gloomy expression.

With a gaze almost as cold and piercing like a scientist is observing an animal... Yoshiharu almost wants to hide.

"....A boring face... He doesn't seem to use much of his brain. Is this the legendary guy who came from the future? Umm. Seems like the intelligence of people from the future isn't very far ahead. Boring...."

"Uhh. A girl that's so rude to the great nature! Hanbei-chan, this is infuriating, finish off this robot! If

this robot is in the sengoku era, everything will become messed up!"

"Uhh~ Uhh~ It's ok if I just defeat this robot. Then Zenki-san, please."

With a sobbing face, Hanbei stood in the courtyard and threw out a talisman.

"Come~~! Leave it to me for the summoning of demons!"

The shikigami Zenki was summoned and face the metal giant "Oh~It stopped"

Like a fox, Zenki smiled and observed it.

"Hmph~ So clumsy, almost like it will fall down after walking a few steps. How can such a toy be able to win this seasoned me?"

"There it comes, the shikigami. It can be said that the era of omyoujis is already over. From now on, it's the era of scientist strategists."

Ahh "Oh~It stopped" held a chain and Hanbei let out a tiny lament.

"Shikigami, I will use this chain to seal your movements. This country will have a huge change, this era does not need omyoujis anymore. Kuroda's chains of hurricane!"

Spin spin spin swoosh!

"Oh~It stopped" swings it's arm and threw the huge chain up to the sky.

But because Kanbei controlled it too tightly causing it to swing wildly, the stance of "Oh~It stopped" collapsed.

Gong gong gong, kacha!

"Oi. "Oh~It stopped" body was wrapped up by the chains."

"Fufu. It seems to be so."

"Fu? Despicable shikigami, what did you do!?"

"No, I didn't do anything."

Dooooooooooooooo~!

"Oh~It stopped" had wrapped it's own body with chains and with the Kanbei inside, it fell onto the ground.

And, the chains had stopped Kanbei from leaving the cockpit.

The victor is decided.

"Ahh? It ends like this, Hanbei-chan?"

"Hmph~ Due to the centre of gravity of this moving doll being unstable, it's very easy to fall down. And, once it falls down, it won't be able to get up due to being too heavy."

"So it means that it won't be useful in actual battles. The sengoku era won't end, I'm a little relaxed now."

".....Hmph. Takenaka Hanbei is really scary. You're an opponent that this Simon won't be able to win against. But, there will be a day that I will definitely surpass you."

"Uhhh. I get a feeling I am viewed as a lifetime rival..... "

Saved from the cockpit of "Oh~It stopped", Kanbei stood in front of the Sagara corps and with a "Fufufu" confident laugh, she reported her name.

"Harima's Himeji castle's owner, Don Simon. You can call me Kuroda Kanbei too, but it's better to call me Simon. From today onwards, I will be the strategist for Sagara Yoshiharu and will lead the victory towards the Mori clan. The thing I like is Hakata's Tonkatsu ramen and the things I dislike are everything about Harima. From today onwards, I hope all of you are prepared to be used like a used cloth. And just to mention, I'm not a boy. This skin color comes from a tan."

I want to do such a refreshing self introduction once, uhh~. Looks like Hanbei is very impressed with Kanbei's fearless attitude.

"That's that. From now on, take care of me then."

After Kanbei's limitless arrogance in the self introduction, she gave an angelic smile.

"Ohhhhh, a bright smile that only young girls have!!!!" Kawanami clan shouted in unison.

The people in the Sagara corps are mesmerized.

Somehow, Hanbei "Ahh, what a refreshing smiling face. I'm really envious." as tears dropped from her eyes.

"You said fighting with the Mori clan?"

Yoshiharu quickly asked and Kanbei said, "Let's talk about such a thing after the celebrations ends." as she continues with her needless smiles.

Kanbei's cuteness and that arrogance that fits with her age hits right at the weakness of the Sagara corps.

"A boy... No, a girl."

"One of the famous "twin beis", Harima's Kuroda Kanbei, huh?"

"I always thought you're a child from namban."

"In Hanbei-chan's eyes, there is only pure reverse thinking in her brain!"

"Anyway, Kanbei is rumored to be skilled in everything from governing to socializing. With her, our Sagara corps will be safe."

"Geez. Our master is really lucky! Wahahahaha!"

"I have always been preparing to be ordered by young girls and tortured! My dream is fulfilled!"

"What a coincidence, me too! I wanna try being scolded as useless by Kanbei-sama!"

These fellows are really scary... While maintaining a cross legged sitting position, she retreated a step.

"Ahh Hanbei, these fellows are harmless so don't mind them. Then, let's go into our self introduction time."

[4]

"Sagara Yoshiharu, you know English too. Then Simon will use English to talk with you. Fuck you asshole ! You're real son of a bitch”

"Wahahaha, I'm getting embarrassed. Kanbei, don't praise me like that!"

".....Forget it I'm not saying anymore. You're too pitiful. "

But Yoshiharu is still embarrassed and did not notice it .

"I'm still this clan's master, Sagara Yoshiharu! Though I don't have much talent other than being from the future , but for Nobuna's Tenka Fubu, I will try my best!"

"Geez, useless other than the fact that you're from the future. Simon is so disappointed....."

"Leave me alone! I'm just being humble!"

"Hmph. Is that being humble? Can you really reach the standard of being humble? This Simon has always been saying the truth and has not hidden her intentions at all."

"You... are really not a cute brat!"

"Not brat, it's Simon. Then... To show you my sincerity , I will use the newest divination method from namban to help predict everyone's fate. Draw a card from this deck of tarot cards, Sagara Yoshiharu."

Kanbei puts the tarot cards onto the tatami mat.

What's this? Poker cards? Picture cards? A fuss erupts.

Kanbei wants to find out about the Sagara corps and use that information for future references such as the battle with the Mori clan and the sending back of Yoshiharu.

"Oh, tarot divination! This is the first time I'm seeing authentic tarot cards!"

"Please understand that it's meaningless if you are drawing for someone else. And, there won't be a clear result if you just draw any card on a whim. You have to declare whatever you wish to know while drawing it. If you do that, I will be able to predict the future according to your own subconscious."

"Ok. Then, let me try my love fortune!"

Yoshiharu drew a card and flip it over onto the tatami mat.

On it.... was an embarrassed man being hanged.

"What's this?"

While narrowing her eyes, Kanbei said, "I see."

"This is "The Hanged Man" card. So as to say, Sagara Yoshiharu, you have women troubles. In terms of love, you will have troubles with girls and disaster will strike on you one after the other."

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHH, Yoshiharu screamed.

"THIS IS TOO ACCURATE! IT'S EXACTLY LIKE WHAT ZENKI SAID! HOW UNFORTUNATE!"

"From what I can see of the ending, you will be hanged by the furious girls."

".....Can't my women troubles be resolved, Kanbei? Actually, I have already been hanged a few times due to these women troubles!"

If this goes on, I will become the reason why Nobuna and Juubei-chan quarrel, and may eventually lead to the Incident at Honnouji! Wanting but unable to shout like this in front of his comrades, Yoshiharu finally became anxious.

"I see. You will feel troubled if I explain here, right? Let's talk about it later."

"I will remember this gratitude!"

"The day that I can finally be rescued from the days of being trapped in women troubles has come!" Yoshiharu is elated and Kanbei (Hehehe. What an easily manipulated person.) revealed a sinister smile.

Next, the trembling Hanbei starts her self introduction.

"Uhh~ I'm Mino's Takenaka Hanbei.... a strategist of Yoshiharu-san. Er, umm, wi.... will you bully me?" * throw*

Hanbei threw a dagger at Kanbei. Kanbei silently pulled out her sword and strikes it down.

"As one would expect from the demon of battles, you have no openings at all. So this is the target I need to surpass, huh?"

"Eh.... No, that just now... it's just a habit... I'm sorry, sorry~!"

"Takenaka Hanbei. To let the world knows the good points of namban science, the seat of the best strategist will be Simon's soon."

".....Uhhhhh....."

These two just can't get along.... Yoshiharu sighed.

"Takenaka Hanbei, you draw one too."

"......Uhh. Then, my health then....."

"Health? You are really a child, what a childish divination."

"I'm done. Can I see it myself?"

"Wait a minute. A smart elite like you, you might not want your fortune to be known by others and will change the card that you drew. Don't look at it, give it to Simon."

"......Uhh. If I refuse, will I be bullied? Here....."

Kanbei took over the card from Hanbei's hand and looked at it.

"......Let's put this back into the deck."

Why did she put it back to the pile and shuffle back?

"Ahh, it ended? What's the result?"

"Uhh~ Please tell me the result."

".....No. It will be advantegous to Takenaka Hanbei. I'm not telling. It's enough for just I Simon to know about it, there's no need to tell everyone here. Hehehe."

"Uhh~ Uhh~"

"Kanbei, please don't quarrel with Hanbei-chan. I beg you."

Kanbei did not answer as she silently shuffle the cards.

"Che, next~"

".....The ninja Hachisuka Goemon. That's all."

Goemon's self introduction is full of Goemon's style.

"Just this little? Just what kind of person are you, I don't really understand."

".....It's because I don't speak often."

"After saying more than 30 words, she will stutter."

"Unya. Sagara-shi, don't tell her that!"

"You stuttered. Hmmm~ Come, draw a card."

"I drew one. I won the grand prize, can we go Izu Oshima for a trip?"

"It's not a prize draw. Hmmm, it's a picture with angels blowing trumpets."

"Unya. I said I've won. I'm a ninja (Ninja(ラ) sounds the same as trumpet)!"

"This isn't a ninja's card. It's the "Judgment" card. It seems like you have to go through an ordeal some day."

"......Is...Is that so? I don't really understand the meaning."

"This is a divination done when she hadn't decided. That's why the result is unclear."

"Unya. I've wasted my time."

"Anyway Goemon! Can you try saying Hachisuka Goemon 5 times?"

"Unya? Habcbhibsubbkba Gbobebmobbn, Habcbhibsubbkba Gbobebmobbn, Habcbhibsubbkba Gbobebmobbn..... Unyanyuhhhhhhh"

"Sagara Yoshiharu, you lied to Simon. Didn't she start stuttering even before 30 words?"

"When she panicked, she will start stuttering, don't bully Goemon too much! What can I do if she explodes!?"

"Uwahhhhh! It's too late! I'm going off now!"

Boom！

Tearing up, Goemon threw a smoke bomb and left.

"Ohh, she self destructed, huh? What an unfortunate turn of events."

"She left because she feels too sad! Goemon is already so pitiful, so can you p.l.e.a.s.e not bully her, Kanbei!?"

"You're like a meddlesome mother-in-law. As a commander, you should be more firm. Hehe."

If I'm a mother-in-law, this fellow here will be the bratty general.... Yoshiharu thought in his mind.

"I'm Nene. Onii-sama's younger sister!"

"Uhhh, hi."

"Don't bully Nene. Please don't. If she cries, it will become troublesome."

"Relax. I won't bully small children."

"You seem to have already bullied Hanbei-chan and Goemon, well~ It's not anything troublesome."

"It will be troublesome if I make a child cry. If a child starts crying, I've to tie her up with a rope, put her into a cannon and send her flying. Because she will be very light, so she will flew out instantly. If I do that, my mood will become refreshed. Hehe."

"Onii-sama! Please save me!"

"Ah~ Yes, yes."

Nene said, "I want to know tomorrow's weather!" and as she chanted good things, she drew out a "Sun" card from the tarot deck.

"Hmmm. Tomorrow will be sunny. That's all."

"Just that? Nene feels a little hurt! I should have tried asking when will I stop wetting the bed!"

"Hehehe. Things like wetting the beds can be fixed easily. If you wet the bed, as a punishment, I will put you into the cannon and shoot you high up in the sky, with that, you can be a flaming cannonball!"

"UWAHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

Don't cry~~! My ears hurt~~!"

Next is the military meeting on fighting against the Mori clan. While smiling sinisterly, she told important news concerning the life and death of the Oda clan.

Though Nobuna had already heard the news from Kanbei but it's still very impactful to Yoshiharu.

"The Mori clan is supporting Ashikaga Yoshiaki who had ran to Ming dynasty. They already making preparations to send Ashikaga Yoshiaki back to the capital..... SAGARA YOSHIHARU! It's because of you messing around that Imagawa Yoshimoto became what she is now. Isn't it better to support Ashikaga Yoshiaki as the shogun?"

Who would have thought that I would be the first to shed tears, Yoshiharu thought.

Yoshiharu did not know the true motive why Kanbei came to his side, to force him back to the future.

One of the reason why Kanbei wants to be his no 1 strategist is to execute her forcing Yoshiharu back to the future plan.

But, with the appearance of the renowned strategist, Kuroda Kanbei and the starting of the war with the tyrant of Chuugoku, the Mori clan, Oda Nobuna no Yabou is finally entering the next stage.

And, it's closer to that Incident at Honnouji.

And, not just Zenki, even Kanbei's tariot cards had pointed out that Yoshiharu has women troubles.

Yoshiharu (It's basically impossible for Juubei-chan to revolt or something, I can say so safely. But as long as I have women troubles, others might betray Nobuna because of me. If this goes on, the Incident of Honnouji might really happen because of me) starts getting nervous.

Things like Ashikaga Yoshiaki being replaced by Imagawa Yoshimoto, like what Kanbei said, it's obviously due to Yoshiharu. Now that he thinks about it, it's also because of Yoshiharu's women troubles. Because Imagawa Yoshimoto is a great beauty, so Yoshiharu had pleaded for her. But that instead led to this crisis of the Oda clan.

"Uuuu. Kanbei, if you can help with my women troubles, please do it now."

"Sim. Then dismiss the people around us. When the both of us are alone, I can go ahead and remove it for you."

"Uhhhh~ This Hanbei wants to be present too."

"No...."

"No, I want to. Because I'm Yoshiharu-san's strategist."

Kanbei (Am I being suspected?) had cold sweat as she can't remove the persistent Hanbei.

Kanbei's plan is stalled. Hanbei sticks closely with Yoshiharu and sat together with him, refusing to leave.

The trio starts discussing about the removal of Yoshiharu's women troubles, but Kanbei plans to persuade Yoshiharu slowly and begins to slowly move her plans forward.

Though she can't send Yoshiharu back to the future now, but before obtaining the "tool" at the Mori clan's territory, she wants to stop the spreading of rumors.

Here, she plans to throw cold water on the romance of Sagara Yoshiharu and Oda Nobuna.

But, the smart Hanbei is sitting here too.

She has to persuade both of them at the same time.

"Yoshiharu-san, I have a bad feeling about this."

"You think too much, Hanbei-chan. Kuroda Kanbei is an extremely renowned genius strategist even in the future. She isn't inferior to Hanbei-chan and is trustworthy."

"But she is a little too clever, she starts taking the lead before anyone notices. Uhhh~"

"Because there isn't any perfect person in the world, this is also Kanbei's personality."

"Huh? That seems to be so. Yoshiharu, you're really a good person."

"Being in a team with the always calm and silent Hanbei, won't that be quite a good team?"

"I understand."

Kanbei took out the newspapers and put them in front of them.

"First, I hope to show you these newspapers. Your women troubles have already developed to a state that will threaten Oda Nobuna's quest of Tenka Fubu."

"......This....Yoshiharu-san! To actually train Nobuna-sama... Too despicable. I've been betrayed. Uhh ~ Uhh~"

"Hanbei-chan, this isn't.... Isn't this obviously fake!? Kanbei, have the rumors spread here? Is the relationship between me and Nobuna exposed?"

"Sim. There might be someone spreading the news to the newspaper agencies. You who has came from the future shouldn't appear suddenly, it's impossible for Oda Nobuna and you to be joined in this world. That's why Oda Nobuna is saying things like destroying the rules and traditions and destroying the Yamato Gose, it's all due to these rumors."

This point, he had already heard it many times from different people. Yoshiharu thought.

"In actual fact, we have not developed to such a deep relationship like the rumors. Not mentioning about the feelings of both of us.... always when we are almost together, Juubei-chan will..... How unfortunate."

"Simon is thinking that Oda Nobuna will definitely surpass her ordeals and achieve her Tenka Fubu. Since, I Simon will help her, so there's no doubt about that. But there's only one "Irregular" existence who forced himself into the Oda clan. The one who came from the future, what he's going to do, I Simon cannot predict it. Things like helping Imagawa Yoshimoto or the rumors with Oda Nobuna. It's because of all these that the history of Oda Nobuna being able to obtain the world is being made into such a big mess now."

"You're talking about me, right?"

"Sim. So as to say, to Oda Nobuna's Tenka Fubu, the biggest obstacle is Sagara Yoshiharu you. I Simon can see it, your women troubles will force history to a weird direction."

Hanbei protested "That's a misunderstanding. Uhh~", but she can't explained why it's an misunderstanding properly.

The reason why....

"Yoshiharu-san came to this world to fulfill Oda Nobuna-sama's dream."

Hanbei is a someone from this era too, so she does not know the future event, Incident at Honnouji, that's why she can't say anything more than this.

The only one who knows the actual history is Sagara Yoshiharu.

"To come here to help Oda Nobuna. On this, I Simon am the same."

"Uhh~ That's true too."

"I had saved Imagawa Yoshimoto who was supposed to die at Okehazama, causing Nobuna to support Yoshimoto as the new shogun. Ashikaga Yoshiaki who was supposed to succeed the position of shogun escaped to Ming dynasty and disappeared from history. I had always thought of things to be like that.... But the history which was changed with my own hands had violently turned back to it's original course at the end."

"Sim. You Sagara Yoshiharu aren't the only one creating history. It's something that is written by countless people with their own thoughts and actions. So you can't do as you wish by yourself and manipulate the flow of history according to what you want it to be. Even if you had successfully changed a path, history will bounce back with even messier consequences. Anything more than this will caused a fatal chaos to Oda Nobuna's destiny.

"Ahhh....."

From the situation, the optimistic Kanbei is confident that Nobuna has the strength to obtain the world, and had not noticed that the "Tower" had hinted at the Incident at Honnouji. She had firmly believed that Yoshiharu had disturbed the destiny of Nobuna.

On his side, Yoshiharu knows the tragic future of Nobuna being killed at Honnou temple.

It's because of this that though the two of them have the same objective, they are fundamentally different.

But, Yoshiharu can't explain about the Incident at Honnouji no matter what.

First, he will be executed if he tells Nobuna about the future.

Even things like "Akechi Mitsuhide will revolt", even if Yoshiharu's mouth is split open, he does not want to tell anyone. The more Yoshiharu understands the maiden named Mitsuhide, the more he thinks that she won't do a thing like betraying Nobuna. He does not wish to snatch the future from Mitsuhide. As long as I work hard, the Incident at Honnouji can definitely be avoided, I have been working hard by myself all this while.

"Kanbei-san. The things you are saying are too complicated. Please explain in a way that Yoshiharu-san can understand."

"Sim. Like the Christian missionary who had came to this country first, the one named Francis."

It's like that, huh? Yoshiharu nodded.

"Assuming that Yoshiharu is a devout Nyankousou believer. To not let Christianity be spread in this country, he feels that Francis is an obstacle. He becomes a pirate and attacks the ship that Francis is on and kills him and his companions."

"Why must I be the pirate?"

"Or rather, a robber, thief, some pervert who loves cat tails, it's all fine?"

"Anyone of them aren't good."

"Then, let's assume that you had eliminated Francis and his gang. Do you think that the history will change like this? In this country, Christianity won't be spread here?"

"Once then, Frois-chan and Organtino will come here in replace of Francis, succeeding Francis's will. Even if there are upsets in the middle, the result is the same.

"Will it really be the same?"

"No.... Yeah. If you kill the missionaries, the namban countries' impression on this country will become very bad. Not mentioning spreading religion, those angry countries might even sail their military ships and attack the Osaka's Honbyo temple."

In actual fact, at the end of the shogunate, there was something similar too. Yoshiharu noticed.

"If that's the case, it will become a full out battle between the Nyankousou and the namban countries?"

Not changing the history of Christianity being spread in this country, I've even made things worse due to my thoughtless actions. If the war fails, this country will become a colony of the Christian countries.

"The result will become totally opposite of what I want . Even though history had once been changed from the path that it is moving towards and had left it's course, in the end, it will definitely return to it's original path. And those useless actions of mine will only cause things to go in a bad direction.

"Sim. It's like this. The flow of history is something that is born from countless thoughts and actions of people. Even if there's change in the path that it is moving, the endpoint won't be easily changed. You are just making history even messier."

It might be like what Kanbei is saying, Yoshiharu thought.

"But Yoshiharu-san didn't do anything bad like that. Rather than killing, he had worked hard in making people live on as he changed history. Uhh~"

"Living or killing, they are the same "thoughtless actions". Because Sagara Yoshiharu helped Imagawa Yoshimoto, it results in this country having two shoguns. Since the shogun is just a puppet up to the point of Oda Nobuna obtaining the world, but now, it has split into 2. Though the history of the shogun being destroyed didn't change, but the process of it being destroyed is much more messier than the history that Sagara Yoshiharu know. What should you do, Sagara Yoshiharu?"

"Uhhh..."

"Uhh~ But avoiding the battle with the Honbyo temple , it's all due to Yoshiharu-san."

"Oda Nobuna does not agree with the armed religious factions having a say in the political world. That is to create a strong and unified country so as to fight with the namban countries. So, won't the battle erupt again one day?"

The things Kanbei said might be a little hard to understand for me, but it had all fitted in. Will I cause the Incident at Honnouji due to my women troubles? Even if the revolt of Juubei-chan becomes impossible, the flow of history will still head towards the Incident at Honnouji.

Someone that I had not expected becoming the culprit isn't impossible too... Like I expected, the reason history has became so messed up is because of my women troubles!?

In front of Kanbei, Yoshiharu groveled.

"I beg you, Kanbei. Help me remove my women troubles!"

I succeeded, Kanbei smiled.

"This is a very good decision. After removing your women troubles, Oda Nobuna will regain her normal mentality and the bad rumors will disappear too."

"I beg you! If it's for that fellow's dream, I do not mind even if I have to separate from Nobuna for a while! But, just for a while, ok!?"

"Ok, leave it to Simon."

"Cough~Cough~ Kanbei-chan, a strategist must have a clear heart. If personal desire is wrapped in it, he or she will become a manipulative monster. Though I don't know what you are planning but wit isn't supposed to be used like that."

Discovering Kanbei's suspicious smile, Hanbei timidly lectured Kanbei, "Chance!" but Kanbei had grabbed onto the opportunity .

"This is for Tenka Fubu too. I Simon will use namban tools to give Sagara Yoshiharu a face off!"

"Wait! Don't destroy my looks! That is extremely troublesome for me!"

"Kanbei-san, that won't remove his women troubles. There isn't any relation between Yoshiharu-san's face and his women troubles. From the future, having the strength of a hero and being very gentle to girls, all these unable to be seen by the naked eye are reasons why he has women troubles in the first place. Especially his resolve of being the rearguard and dying instead of betraying his master in Kanegasaki, that is the blow that determines everything. There's totally no relation with his face. No relation whatsoever with his looks. Cough~ Cough~"

Hanbei-chan, you don't have to keep emphasizing that it's not related to my looks. Yoshiharu feels sad.

Anyway, the amount of times that Hanbei is coughing had become higher.

She might be having a cold, as he starts worrying.

"Is that so, not related to his looks, huh? It is definitely so. Then it's useless even if his face is to change."

"That's right."

"Hmph, you think that is enough to convince this Simon, Takenaka Hanbei? Naive."

"Eh?"

"If I can't remove his women troubles, I can just let some other thing possess him. Hehehe."

"Letting something possess me? No. Won't that make history even messier!?"

"The artificial spirit that Rikyuu-sensei and I Simon created together, Sunekosuri! Possess Sagara Yoshiharu!"

Pong.

Kanbei opened a bamboo container hanging on her waist. From inside, a furry living thing like a small white dog jumped out.

It looks like a small puppy but it's body is just the size of a palm, around 7cm.

"What's this fellow, it's so cute."

"Demon-san?"

"It's the aritifical spirit SuneKosuri. With the help of Sensei, Simon created it with the power of alchemy."

"Sunekosuri is very very very lonely everyday. Kanbei, is it ok if I stick with this man?"

It said something, what a cute voice. Yoshiharu and Hanbei thought as they look at each other.

"Sim. Sunekosuri. If you possess at Sagara Yoshiharu who has many friends, you can touch any girl you like. With that, you won't feel lonely anymore."

"Very different from the friendless Kanbei. I will stick to him."

"No! How can it.... Cough, cough."

Hanbei frantically tried to stop Sunekosuri, but it had already jumped into Yoshiharu's clothes.

"Uwahh, itchy!"

"Once it sees other humans other than the one he is possessing, it will have the habit of touching anyone close to it. With it's furry hands and tail, the one who is touched will feel very itchy. And, it hates the skin of rough men and will only touch the skin of girls."

"Totally not unlike a pervert. I don't want to help a guy other than me touch girls."

"Not a problem. Sunekosuri is a young female. It doesn't touch humans with lustful thoughts, but just because it is lonely and wants to become close with everyone. Just that, it won't touch it's actual parents, Simon only. Maybe I'm being treated as a boy....."

"What a weird habit.... What good things will happen to me if this fellow possessed onto me?"

"You who has women troubles, has the effect of making girls like you to no end. Let us end this effect. Every time girls come near you, Sunekosuri will hide itself and touch them in all places. The girls who are

unable to see Sunekosuri will misunderstand and think you are the one touching them. You will be treated as a pervert."

"WAIT JUST A MOMENT!!!!!!!"

Stop joking around! I have finally become a master of a province.

Yoshiharu let out a lament, "Hanbei-chan, I beg you, help me remove this thing!" But even with Hanbei using her talismans and chanting incantations, Sunekosuri just won't budge.

Hanbei tried chanting different incantations, but it seems to be ineffective towards Sunekosuri who was created using namban science.

Not just that, while Hanbei is chanting cute incantations like "Dis...Disappear....", her thighs were very close to Yoshiharu, thus Sunekosuri starts touching her with it's hands.

"Uwahh? It...Itchy!"

"It already started touching!?"

"It seems to have come in from a dead angle, I didn't notice it at all. Uhh~"

"Got it! I found it! Sunekosuri, be nice and stay put!"

"Nah~ Sunekosuri thirsts for the warmth of humans. I wanna touch more of it. Please don't chase Sunekosuri away, don't chase me away~"

"Don't look at me with such a tearful expression!"

"Uhh~ I failed, Yoshiharu-san. Though it looks like a demon but it's different from other demons in the past. I do not know the way to remove it."



If Nobuna is able to drift apart from Yoshiharu, the plan of forcing Sagara Yoshiharu back to the future will be easy to execute.

"Wait? What should I do if Nobuna misunderstands and thinks it's me who is touching her and starts getting happy by herself, Kanbei? What happens if the relationship between Nobuna and I becomes even closer? "

"Happy? Why? What's with that? A girl who will feel happy about you touching her does not exist in this world, right?"

To Kanbei who is clueless about love, it seems like it's a topic that she can't even imagine.

".....Looks like it's a topic that it's hard to understand for children.... It's nothing actually."

Yoshiharu has the premonition that with this meddlesome Kanbei's actions, history will be even messier.

At this time, while sucking her Mackerel vermicelli, Nene ran over.

"Onii-sama! There's a smoke signal rising from Azuchi castle!"

"Smoke signal?"

"That... it seems like Hime-sama is on her way with a ship over here!"

"WHAT~~?"

So fast, it seems like the time for my plan to work will start soon, Kanbei is elated.

Though she didn't create Sunekosuri for such a plan, but it had unexpectedly become useful.

"As I expected, Fate had push this Kanbei along..." The young Kanbei naively believes so.

After Nobuna destroyed the Asai Asakura clans, she had forbidden her retainers from hosting tea parties.

This is known as "Political tea parties".

[5]

All the tea rooms of the Oda retainers had been sealed. Tea parties can only be held with Nobuna attending it personally, as they discuss military movements in secret.

In actual fact, when Nobuna was staying in Hakone, just when things were almost set in stone, Mitsuhide had interrupted them, thus causing Nobuna to consider ways for her and Yoshiharu to be alone.

Periodic trips to Hakone will disturb the work for Tenka Fubu and even when they are in Hakone, Mitsuhide, with her loyal face on, will disturb them saying "No, you can't!"

In such a situation, Nobuna begins a secret battle. And that is the Political Tea Parties.

To not allow secrets to be leaked, the Oda clan secretly hosts tea parties to discuss their military movements!

And only the master, Nobuna has the right to host such political tea parties.

Only by proclaiming things to be so can allow Nobuna to secretly enter a retainer's tea room and not be suspected (by Mitsuhide).

Since Nobuna is alone with Yoshiharu in Nagahama castle's tea room, the easily deceived Mitsuhide will think that it's a political tea party and not suspect it.

(What a genius idea! With this, Juubei will not suspect a thing!)

Immersed in such thoughts, Nobuna came to Nagahama castle.

But.

This idea, was crushed completely upon reaching the harbor of Nagahama castle.

"This Juubei has come to Nagahama castle to visit Sagara-senpai for work related issues too. This is really a coincidence, Nobuna-sama."

"....What a coincidence...."

"Of course it's a coincidence. It's very suspicious that you did not notice the smoke signal rising from Azuchi castle."

"You are totally thinking that it's suspicious!"

"Of course, please allow me to join in the tea party."

Sailing across Lake Biwa on a fast boat from Azuchi castle, Nobuna who had reached the harbor of Nagahama castle met Akechi Juubei Mitsuhide who had rushed here from Sakamoto castle.

It's totally like, she had seen through Nobuna's plans and had waited here.

Of course, Nobuna is becoming more and more frustrated.

I can finally be alone with Yoshiharu.

If we are to start fighting the Mori, there won't be a chance like this anytime soon.

She had held such an expectation in her heart..... until Mitsuhide appeared.

"Don't join in." But Nobuna can't say it out.

Even if it's suspicious, but an important military meeting has to be held in the tea room.

Of course, the meeting will be about the upcoming battle with the Mori.

A secret date with Yoshiharu will tentatively be after the military meeting ends. (Nobuna thought)

While walking towards the tea room located at the main castle, Nobuna's expression was one full of fury.

".....Juubei. Now is a critical period concerning the life and death of the Oda clan."

Of course, the dense Mitsuhide does not notice it at all.

"The Asai Asakura clans are gone, Nobuna-sama. Though the Mori clan is a strong enemy, but if we the Oda clan stay united, we are of equal strength with them. "

"The situation's already not like this. With the interference of Ashikaga Yoshiaki and the Mori clan, Uesugi Kenshin and Takeda Shingen who were

supposed to fight at Kawanaka Island seem to have stopped."

"Wh...What!? It can't be... In our west, there is the Mori army, in the east, the Takeda army and in the north, the Uesugi army, they might all attack at the same time?"

"Though it's just an assumption, but the worst case scenario will be having to split our forces into three. And everyone of them are strong."

While Mitsuhide clutched her fist, she apologize to Nobuna.

"I'm really sorry, Nobuna-sama! I Juubei totally thought that Yoshiaki-sama had boarded the boat headed towards Ming dynasty! I should have eliminated any loose ends and tied Yoshiaki-sama to a rock and sunk her to the bottom of the ocean. Things wouldn't be like this if I had done that!"

"Juubei, you can't just sink someone from the shogun clan to the bottom of the ocean. There's no helping it. It's all because that Saru saving Imagawa Yoshimoto that we have come to this. Geez, that fellow, he's just too frivolous."

"Uhh~ I'm really sorry, Nobuna-sama....."

"....Damn.... I can't get Sunekosuri off.... My time's up."

Yoshiharu sits in seiza in the tea room waiting and with the arrival of Nobuna and Mitsuhide, a fuss broke out.

"It's been long since we last met, Sagara-senpai! Let's hold the namban wedding ceremony in Sakamoto castle after I have conquered Tamba!"

"Eh~~? Why is Juubei-chan here?"

With the tea pot between them, Yoshiharu and Nobuna exchanged gazes.

(It's only at such periods that Juubei is extremely sensitive. But, I have no idea what should I say to make her go back in the middle.)

Now isn't the time to have a secret date, Yoshiharu complains with his eyes, But Nobuna turned her head away and ignored him.

(Yeah. Passing everyday without regrets, I have resolve for that.)

"Yeah. It's a life of 20 years. I don't have much patience too, things like hesitating or delaying....)

(.....I know. Now that our relationship has been spread around by rumors, though I had planned to not be beside you temporarily, but, if it's in this tea room.....)

(Hmmm~ As long as Juubei returns, no one will notice .)

In the small tea room.

Mitsuhide sits beside Yoshiharu.

That.... is the start of the tragedy.

"Hoho~ The shape of this tea cup is just unique, where is this created from?" At Yoshiharu's side, Mitsuhide observes the tea cup that he had personally created and let out her comments. Yoshiharu instead exchange conversations with Nobuna with just their eyes.

It's almost like a conversation between hearts.

At the same time, the military meeting starts.

"Saru. Ashikaga Yoshiaki is displeased with the Mori clan serving under her and has pushed for peace between Uesugi Kenshin and Takeda Shingen. The two of them have stopped their battle at Kawanaka Island as Ashikaga Yoshiaki is persistantly sending both of them letters. Let's not care about Shingen for now, with the absolute servitude nature of Kenshin under authority, he might actually agree."

"Yeah. Even if we have complete control over the lands surrounding the capital, if Uesugi and Takeda are to ally with each other, it will become quite an headache....."

"It's like this. Though I want to send the whole of the Oda army to fight with the Mori clan, but right now I can only send a vanguard over to Harima, I myself will have to be alert on any news from the eastern provinces."

"Harima, huh? Kanbei's birthplace."

"The forces of the Mori clan stops right at the neighboring province of Harima, Bizen's Mimasaka. If Harima is conquered, Settsu will be in danger. Once Settsu falls, Kyo will be next. The vanguard has to be send immediately over to Harima."

"It must be even more dangerous than the time at Anegawa or Gifu. I have such a feeling about this."

"Sagara-senpai, with this Juubei around, such worries are unnecessary. Anyway, what is this pill?"

The sharp Mitsuhide discovered a strange pill in Yoshiharu's tea set.

"Pill? Ahh, this, huh. What's that?"

It's the ninja drug that Goemon had given Yoshiharu when he was with Nobuna at Hakone.

It was originally a painkiller, but it had a strong side effect. When it is applied externally or ingested, the body will become abnormally excited, like an energy booster.

Yoshiharu is anxious and hope that problems won't occur. It was given by the virgin Goemon giving out strange vibes, a thing not unlike an energy drink.

.....But, Yoshiharu did not know what drug this is for and had totally forgotten that it had mixed in the midst of the tea set. It might be because he had not planned to use it at all.

"Actually, this is from Goemon. It seems to be a mysterious drug that is also a painkiller."

"Hoho~ I Juubei, maybe because I'm using my head too much, but I can't sleep nowadays due to severe headaches. If it's a ninja drug, it must be fast acting. Itadakimasu. Gulp~"

"Ah, oi! Juubei-chan, don't just ingest some unknown drug.... You're too careless."

".....Uhh....."

"Oi? Are you alright, Juubei?"

"It's weird.... my body..... is getting warm....."

With shocking speed, the drug had taken effect.

Suddenly, Mitsuhide's face blushed bright red and " Hah....Hah" starts panting.

"Ahh, I can't stop sweating.... Ho....How strange. My b. ..body.... Somehow, it's getting hot....."

Gulp, Yoshiharu swallowed his saliva without thinking, Mitsuhide's appearance is becoming suspicious.

Her legs start to spread out in the character "八" as she scratches the inner areas of her thighs. Her eyes had become moist too.

"Wa...Wait, Juubei? Saru, just what did you give Juubei ?"

"I said, it's a painkiller. Ah? Wait, this drug seems to have some side effect."

"What are you saying after so long?"

"No...Nobuna-sama. Danger. Don't take this drug..... Uhhh, it's itchy.... In the deepest region of my body..... it's all hot. Hah, hah, hah"

Though when guys take this drug, it's an energy drug, but to girls, it's a very strong aphrodisiac. And then, Nobuna had her troublesome curiosity too.

"Hmmm? This isn't poison, right? Looking at Juubei, it seems to be very effective. I should take it too."

"No...You can't, Nobuna-sama!"

"It shouldn't be an overdose if it's just a single pill, right? Because I'm always losing my temper nowadays, my head has been hurting all this while~"

"No, Nobuna-sama. It's true that it help headaches, but my whole body is now very hot.... I feel... restless.... Hah hah... hah... hah....."

"The side effects differ with people. If there's any strange side effect, it's alright if I ask Danjo to synthesize an antidote. Gulp~"

Nobuna too took the drug with curiosity.

"Ahh!"

Yoshiharu had finally recalled. This is a energy booster ! It was originally used as a painkiller, the side effect will make people excited! Before the secret date with Nobuna, Goemon had given it to me!

"Nobuna! No, that drug is.... You're already taken it!?"

"Eh? It isn't a painkiller? Didn't you say..... Ah..... Hmmm!?"

She becomes numb.

After taking it, it's not very long before Nobuna feels numb all over.

But, her mood becomes strange too.... This isn't just a normal numbness.

"Wh...Wh....What's this? My b...bo....body.... Hot.... hot. ... It's hot...."

"No...Nobuna-sama, th...this.... mi.... might be, aphr..... aphrodisiac."

"What's aphr....aphrodisiac? Wh...Why is....is there such a thing.... in Saru's tea room?"

"Hah, hah, hah.... It's so hot. If I don't strip..... Hah, hah ...."

"Wa....Wa...Wait, Ju....Juubei.....! Sa....Saru is still here, tha... that... is just unsightly.....Eh?"

Si si.....


『きゃあああっ？』
『ひぐううっ!?』

Her whole body started feeling strange, Yoshiharu's fingers started crawling up and down in a lewd way. Her legs and waist are so numb that she can't stand up.

No, in actual fact, it's not Yoshiharu's fingers, but Sunekosuri's hands that is touching her.

"No~~! Sa...Saru..... Yoshiharu.....! N....No, not now. Don't touch me there.....!"

"Eh? Where exactly is there?"

".....I'm nu....nu....numb.... N....No....NOOOOO!"

Nobuna can no longer maintain the seiza position.

She collapsed.

"Ahh, Nobuna-sama! Sagara-senpai, what did you do!? "

Mitsuhide "Hah....hah...." panted frantically as she rest her hands on the katana resting on her waist.

"I got it, it's the doing of Sunekosuri! Stay there and not move, now isn't the time!"

"Touching girls is the habit of Sunekosuri?"

"This drug isn't just a painkiller! Even If I recall now, there's no helping it, it's too late!"

Yoshiharu wants to put Sunekosuri who is currently touching Nobuna's thighs back into his shirt and forced it back against his chest. But, as he isn't used to the seiza position, his legs had become numb.

"Uwah?"

"Wait....Yoshiharu.... No! Juubei is still here!"

Yoshiharu slipped and fell onto the top of Nobuna who had barely supported her own body as she "Hah.... hah" endures some weird sensation.

".....No...No....Nobuna-sama..... You can't. The trusted Senpai had disguised an aphrodisiac as a painkiller and deceived us into taking it..... Hah, hah, hah. Senpai, you can't do such a thing to Nobuna-sama. If you want to do it no matter what, please use this Juubei's charming body to satisfy yourself!"

"No, it's really a misunderstanding! Oi, Sunekosuri! Don't come out, don't just touch them!"

"Ahhhhhhh~? Hurry and stop, Yoshiharu. You are touching~~! That is between the legs~?"

"So...Sorry. Sunekosuri seems to love touching girls' thighs!"

"No! Nono, if you touch me there, I'm going to die~ Ahn~! Noo~~!"

"Umm~ Senpai, where the hell did you touch Nobuna-sama..... Ah, hah~? Where did you touch her~! Ah, ahh, my strength....."

"There too! Touching both of them at the same time.... Sunekosuri, what a scary fellow!"

Yoshiharu is on top of the trembling Nobuna, while on Yoshiharu's back, it's the slim body of Mitsuhide who was "Uhhhh" sobbing.

".....To....Too much, Senpai.... To...To actually do such a despicable thing.... Calling both of us together and making us take an aphrodisiac and then, touching us between the legs....."

"It's not between the legs, it's the thighs!"

"HAH, HAH, HAH.... I'M GOING TO CUT YOU DOWN MYSELF, SARU! I MUST EXECUTE YOU PERSONALLY! WHY DID YOU ASK JUUBEI ALONG TOO, IDIOT~~!"

"Kosuri, kosuri. As long as I touch humans, I won't be lonely anymore. With my hands, legs and tail, I'm touching both of them."

"EHHHHHHHHHH~?"

"UHHHHHHHHH~!?

"WAIT~~, SUNEKOSURI~~! YOU BASTARD, YOU'RE TOO MUCH~!"

……

……

……

Finally after a period of time, the drug wears off.

At a situation where they have no idea how, Nobuna and Mitsuhide were half naked as they sandwiched Yoshiharu and hugged him tightly, with "Hah, hah"

moans coming out from them. But, suddenly, everything returns to normal like nothing had happened.

Just a little more and the trio will fall into the demonic path filled with lust.

It's only at times like this that Goemon won't appear! While lamenting like this, Yoshiharu had prepared to be "bathed" in the insults and scolding of Nobuna and Mitsuhide who are dressing themselves properly.

Yoshiharu can't defend himself.

And, it's most likely that they won't listen to my explanations.

"TO...TO...TO...TO...TO ACTUALLY MAKE US NUMB WITH DRUGS AND TOUCH EVERYWHERE YOU LIKE....!"

"I WOULDN'T HAVE REFUSED IF YOU HAD ASKED ME DIRECTLY, SENPAI IS THE WORST~! AND IT'S BOTH OF US TOGETHER! WHAT DO YOU THINK THE HEART OF MAIDENS ARE! PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF US!"

"It's all a misunderstanding! It's true that drug is a painkiller! It's just that, I had totally forgotten about the side effect....."

"DI...DI...DID....DID...DIDN'T YOU TOUCH US!!?!? TOUCHING US H....HE...HERE AND T...TH....THERE!"

"YEAH, WE'VE BEEN MOLESTED! AND YOU USED SOME SMALL FURRY THING! Wh...What's that, that thing that feels so comfortable?"

"That... Umm, that is the doings of a demon.... Umm.... "

"HUH? AREN'T YOU THE DEMONIC ERO-SARU?"

"Yeah! The Senpai today is totally an enemy of women !"

While dropping tears, Nobuna threw punches at Yoshiharu's chest.

"Owwwwww~!?"

"I'M NEVER GOING TO BE ALONE WITH SOMEONE LIKE YOU IN A ROOM ANYMORE! NOT

JUST THE TWO OF US, WHETHER IT'S THREE OR FOUR, YOU WILL ATTACK THEM, RIGHT~!? YOU CHEATER! BASTARD! MOLESTER! PERVERT! TO MOLEST THE BOTH OF US TOGETHER, YOU'RE THE WORST! UWAHHHHHH~!"

"Nobuna-sama, please don't cry! I Juubei am extremely sad too, my tears..... uhh....."

"You, can't you distinguish the things that you can or cannot do!? Do you think you can be so frivolous after being a daimyo of a province!? Or is this what you really are?"

"Please, I beg you, calm down and listen to me!"

"Yoshiharu.... I hate you~!"

Punishment~~!

Punishment~~!

Nobuna used all her strength to give continuous slaps to Yoshiharu's face till it becomes swollen and Yoshiharu thought (Am I going to be punished like this by the two of them.....) as he collapsed onto the tatami.

Coming into such a fuss is Nene's grandfather, known as "Asano's Jii-san" appeared with his walking stick.

The Asano clan, due to Nene's god-brother, Yoshiharu becoming the daimyo of Northern Omi, had become rich from the lands obtained by the Sagara clan.

So, Asano's Jii-san had shifted over to Nagahama too.

"Ohh, geezer! You're here to save me, right? I'm in your debt!"

"Ohh. Isn't this Omi's Asai Nagamasa-sama? After seeing you, you have unexpectedly a dirty face. Compared to being Saruyashamaru, you are more of an ape."

"I'm Sagara Yoshiharu! Nene's brother!"

"Ohh, I see. There's urgent news from Harima."

"News? Harima?"

"The Ukita Naoie army who had become the vanguard of the Mori clans has attacked Harima. Now Harima, ahh , just where is it? The southern part of Ryukyu? Ohh."

"Wh...What? What~~!?"

Nobuna and Mitsuhide suddenly stopped crying.

"While doing such a dumb thing, the Mori clan has taken the initiative! It's all due to Saru being too perverted.... This can't be~!"

"What should we do, Nobuna-sama?"

"Riku is at Echizen. Manchiyo is at Wakasa, Sakon is at Ise. We can't make it in time even if I send them to Harima now."

"Juubei has just finish preparations for attacking Tamba, I can't just retreat now."

"If that's the case, Saru! Right now, bring Kanbei who is familiar with Harima and head out! Chase Ukita Naoie out of Harima!"

"Me?"

"The only one in the Oda clan who is free enough to give aphorismatic to girls is just you. And also, I had originally planned for you to be the vanguard."

"I have just shifted to Nagahama castle, the manpower I have right now is just a mere 5000. The most important thing is, I don't have the experience to lead the army as a commander. Nobuna, how about you come along with me."

"You, do you understand what you did to your own master? In such a situation, I will normally execute you myself! I will pardon you if you can successfully stop the invasion of the Mori clan!"

"As long as Goemon comes back, I can be acquitted.... Uhhh~"

This time, it's 3 punches at his chest.

"Uhhhhhhhh."

"I've decided. I will leave the Mori clan to you! You are the commander for the Chuugoku army right now! Until the Mori clan surrenders, never appear in front of me~! YOU.... BASTARD SARU!"

"Ehh~? Don't say impossible things! The opponent is the tyrant of Chuugoku! Not mentioning the thing about me being the vanguard, there is no chance I can force a surrender of that Mori clan."

"I've changed my mind."

"That's just you being rash and taking revenge!"

"Ahh? You are the hero who deceived Juubei and I to take an aphrodisiac, and planned to bed both of us. Isn't a thing like destroying the Mori clan a small thing compared to this?"

"Oi, don't be nonsensical. Won't that make our position of master and subordinate even further apart!? Kanbei! Where is Kanbei! Oi~, help me explain this~!"

"Hmph~ You are the worst to actually push the fault to a new retainer. Juubei, we are going back!"

"Roger! Until Senpai apologizes from his heart, I won't send out any reinforcements! I'm currently in the midst of conquering Tamba, I'm very busy and will never help you out!"

"How did things~~!"

Nobuna and Mitsuhide left Nagahama castle like a hurricane.

Being left alone in the tea room, Yoshiharu suddenly noticed.

".....When they scold me, both Nobuna and Juubei-chan are the victim as they are totally in sync. With this, I might just be able to avoid the Incident at Honnouji....?"

The women troubles that bothered Yoshiharu recently might be totally removed.

Kanbei's plan seems to have succeeded effectively.

But as the price, Yoshiharu has to face the Mori clan alone.

Once Nobuna and Mitsuhide's rage simmered, they should send reinforcements....

"Oioi. As long as Sunekosuri is possessing me, the fury of both of them won't simmer."

To the trembling Sunekosuri in his bosom, he greeted it.

"You, just when are you going to stop possessing me?"

"After I've touched many girls and not feel lonely, if not, I will keep possessing you."

The seemingly cute Sunekosuri revealed it's small face and answered Yoshiharu. That round eyes and small furry face, it's extremely cute. It's a plus point that it's as big as his palm. As long as Nobuna sees this.... As long as she knows the actual culprit, I should be forgiven. Actually, she might just "Ahh~ Kawaii~!" and become extremely happy.

But there is the possibility of "So this fellow is the actual molester, huh?" and squash Sunekosuri to a bunch of meat.

"I don't have a clear idea. State clearly the day and time."

"If that day nears, you will know."

"Is that so? You yourself aren't sure?"

"Possessing a human and touching girls like this, a life of tickling girls is really very fun. I'm already not lonely. It's so lucky that Sunekosuri is an artificial spirit."

"I don't feel the least bit of happiness being a human! I can't get close to any girls now!"

"Sunekosuri will die from loneliness for not touching girls. Sagara Yoshiharu, you want such a cute Sunekosuri to die so tragically?"

"Don't use such a tearful expression to look at me!"

".....Sagara Yoshiharu. You shouldn't have any women troubles at the start? You shouldn't be popular with your looks. If you are really popular, the two of them just now at the tea room would be very happy "Touch us more~""

"Shaddup. Actually, I'm starting to think if I'm being too overly self-conscious!"

"Then get near to all kind of girls for Sunekosuri."

"I'm so envious of you. Suddenly, I have the feeling that I'm just the extra and you are the main body."

"That's it. You are too dense for noticing it so late. If there's no girls in the vicinity, Sunekosuri is going to sleep. The sleeping time for Sunekosuri is longer compared to humans."

"So lucky, this fellow."

Sunekosuri shrunk back to his bosom and began sleeping, Yoshiharu changed his thinking pattern.

Though Sunekosuri is a extremely troublesome fellow, but it will have to leave one day.

For now, let's just solve the other problem.

"The Mori clan... We can only send the vanguard out. If I don't hurry up now...."

The vanguard over at their side....

"The Mori clan's vanguard invading Harima.... Ukita Naoie, huh?

Ukita Naoie.

"Ah, huh~?"

Yoshiharu hugged his head.

Though he knows of his name, but the only thing he know is that his intelligence is very high.

"Won't my only strong point be useless now~~!"

"Geez, I have no idea what that idiot is thinking. Has some part of it's brain short circuited after becoming a daimyo, or has his actual personality appeared now?"

Standing at the deck of the boat heading towards Azuchi castle, Nobuna looks at the moon reflected on Lake Biwa while puffing up her face.

"Well~ With this, Juubei won't be near him for now..."

Though she is looking forward to being alone with Yoshiharu, she had gone too far with her anger and before she could react, she had send Yoshiharu alone to face the Mori clan.

But, the Nobuna now is slowly becoming calm.

If the Mori clan activates the whole of their army, it will be a number surpassing tens of thousands. The manpower that Yoshiharu has is a measly 5000.

"I have given such an unreasonable order. If I don't head out...."

Once I reach Azuchi castle, I will send reinforcements over to Harima. Nobuna thought.

But, she does not understand Yoshiharu's action in the tea room.

"It might be because Yoshiharu likes me too much and had lost his senses. That drug, he might have planned to take it together with me.... It must be so. Juubei being together with me is totally out of both him and my expectations. Yoshiharu didn't ask us to take the drug, it's Juubei who took it without asking...."

Even so, I don't mind if it's just my body. Why did he even touch Juubei? As I expected, he's really a pervert! With this, the flames of fury began to burn brightly in Nobuna's heart.

What the hell is going on? To do such a perverted thing to other girls, it shouldn't be possible. Who does he think I am? I'm the demon lord of the sixth realm, Oda

Nobuna. I will burn all who oppose me. Originally, it's not too much of me to personally execute him in that tea room.

"I shouldn't have let Yoshiharu see my dere face all this while. Just being sweet isn't the way to go, I must give him the whip sometimes. Or else who knows just how arrogant can that Saru be."

Nobuna called for Inuchiyo.

"I have to send out aides to give him a proper scolding! Inuchiyo!"

……

There's no response.

"Ahh.... Inuchiyo had become Akahorushuu from an aide. Now I'm here in Echizen together with Riku...."

Not waiting for the Tenshuu to be completed, Nobuna had entered Azuchi castle. Riku, Inuchiyo, Manchiyo and Yoshiharu, all of them aren't around. The territories that the Oda clan are holding had increased too fast.

Though she had thought that using Lake Biwa, she could meet with anyone, but everyone had been so busy over Tenka Fubu and didn't have many chances to meet.

And her mother Lady Tsuchida, after that golden skull day, had refused to see her.

She had been closer to her dream, but the closer she is, the more lonely she gets. Nobuna thought.

Asai Nagamasa.... Oichi, after losing the fate of being a sengoku daimyo, she had been living a complete life with Nobusumi as husband and wife and it seems that they are very happy now.

I want to live like that too.

There are times that I sincerely hope I can live a life like that.

But, the existence of "Oda Nobuna" is much too huge for this world.

Right now, she can't easily abandon her quest for Tenka Fubu. For her own dream, many samurais had lost their lives. It's only this that she can't do.

(It's ok for anyone to talk about me, a thing like the world, I can just pass it to Juubei. It's ok if I'm just a nameless wife of Yoshiharu. So, please be with me forever. After obtaining the world, if Yoshiharu is the one who pleads, if that's the case....)

Such a thing will never happen, while closing her eyes, she mumbles softly like talking to someone.

I'm so lonely.

My heart is so cold.

From a corner of her eyes, tears flows out.

(I shouldn't have come back. It's ok if we quarrel the whole night and not reconcile. It's better if I stay at Yoshiharu's tea room.....)

At Nobuna's back, a black shadow climbs onboard from the lake.

It's not a human.

Nobuna "Who's there?" turned her back, but that shadow had disappeared.

"It's my imagination. I must be really lonely tonight."

Is this shadow heading towards Azuchi castle and then sneaking into Kyo? The dark world of the era is already baring it's fangs at Nobuna in ways that she can't expect.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Chapter 4 : Battle Start, Capturing of Harima

Not having a chance to rest at Nagahama, Yoshiharu had rushed directly to Harima.

It was fair skies today and Sagara Yoshiharu is on his way towards Kuroda Kanbei's castle, Himeji castle on a mountain path, bringing along his 5000 men strong troops.

The southern Harima connects it with the Setouchi seas, it's quite a beautiful place.

Alongside Yoshiharu, Kanbei proudly said, "How is it, this time round, you have no need to worry about your women troubles."

"As the price, we are now given the messed up order to start the war independant with the Mori clan.

"With Simon around, don't worry. If we take down Harima first, our numbers will increase greatly."

"It'll be good if all goes well. Anyway, are there any strong sengoku daimyo like Nobuna, Shingen or Kenshin around in Harima?"

Hanbei rode her usual mule-like horse on the other side of Yoshiharu and explained.

"Uhh, Yoshiharu-san. Though Harima had been fought over by 36 nobles, but there isn't a strong one among them that can be compared to the Oda clan or Asai clan."

"In simple terms, there have not been any changes from the Muromachi shogunate and has been maintained as a rural area?"

"Though not completely right, but it's more or less there. Uhh, the Oda clan is originally a small power in Owari but in such a short time, we have grown to such an extent, to be honest, there are many people who look upon us as midnight millionaires. As for Yoshiharu, there are rumors like, "Is he really a wild monkey?" things like that, I'm sorry, I'm sorry."

"I don't mind at all, but even if we are to fight the Mori clan, we the Oda clan have no base in Harima."

"Yes, that's why we can only borrow Kanbei's Himeji castle for now."

"How thick-skinned. Listen, I Simon had planned to give Himeji castle to Oda Nobuna and not to you, Sagara Yoshiharu."

This time, Hanbei swings her command fan towards the front.

"It's the Himeji castle in the front. Uhh, rather than a castle, it's more like a gathering place."

"Ahhh? It's a little too torn down than the Himeji castle I expected, are we lost?"

"Those who dare underestimate Simon's castle will not be permitted entry."

In Yoshiharu's era, Himeji castle is a majestic and famous castle proud of it's own Tenshu, it's not just the national treasure of Japan but it can even be a world's heritage.

But in this era, Himeji castle is just a combination of a few small houses, it can be considered a mid level base at most.

Though the Kuroda clan is one of the 36 nobles of Harima, but rather than fighting, they are more skilled in commerce as they are known for not liking to fight.

So when a news like "The army of the Oda clan is coming in" reached the town, there was immediately a fuss.

Though Kanbei's father, Kuroda Souen had already retired and had passed down his position of head to Kanbei, during the time when Kanbei was studying abroad, he had stayed and guarded Himeji castle.

Such a Souen while saying, "Just what is going on?", he opened the gates and looked out. What he sees is his long time no see daughter, Kanbei in her strange namban attire riding right in the midst of the army.

"It's been so long, Chichiue. Simon is now serving under the Oda clan and has become the vanguard in the war with the Mori and so, I wish to use the Himeji castle as the base of the Oda clan."

"Hoho~ I had expected that you wouldn't be satisfied with just being the master of Harima castle, Kanbei. Though the thought of you serving in the Oda clan to

search for more chances to grow had crossed my mind before, but this is much earlier than I had predicted."

"But Takenaka Hanbei had already become famous in the Oda clan much earlier than me."

"The difficulty of serving under the Oda clan from Mino and Harima is totally different, don't be hasty Kanbei. Though you are quick on the uptake, but you have always been impulsive and hasty."

Though the retainers of the Kuroda clan were all saying "What should we do?" "Our princess is really someone hard to fathom." "If we serve under the Oda clan, don't we have to fight with the Mori clan?" as they start panicking, but Souen himself does not seem too shocked.

Yoshiharu jumped down from the horse and bowed to Souen.

"I'm the general of the Oda clan here to fight with the Mori clan, Sagara Yoshiharu. Though I'm really sorry, but our Oda clan have no bases in Harima and we can only temporarily use Himeji castle for now."

"Hoho~ I will give this Himeji castle to Sagara-sama, go ahead and use it as you wish."

"What are you talking about!? I'm giving this castle to Oda Nobuna, as a guarantee that Oda Nobuna will finance my research fees of my namban science."

"Wait a minute, Kanbei. Don't just use the castle as a guarantee."

Souen let out his unique "Hoho~" laughter.

"Sagara-sama, please be my Kanbei's friend. Due to her introvert personality, this daughter of mine has never been able to mix around very well with others."

"Is that so? She had used her tarot cards to stand at the top of the people just now."

"My daughter has been very smart from young, but this rural Harima is too small for her. There are times that it would seem that she had mixed with the crowd, but in her heart, she had been having the mentality of being superior to others."

Is that so? After hearing from Souen, Yoshiharu looked upon Kanbei who is at his side.

Those thighs that was revealed from her extremely short namban skirt that was supposedly be extremely modern compared to the sengoku era, it was extremely attractive.

Don't use such a lewd way to look at me! Simon did not even think twice as she kicked at Yoshiharu.

"My daughter loves absorbing knowledge and so, she had many teachers, but not any friends. She is very knowledgeable, but is always thinking by herself, though she's smart but she isn't very tactful. Hoho~!"

"Chi....Chichiue! Don't reveal Simon's black history in Harima!"

"I'm telling you this secretly. Because my daughter does not have any friends, she once summoned demons to play with her. Hoho~"

"Demons!"

"Chichiue, it's history that Simon learned omyouji! The current Simon has already changed to become a namban scientist cum strategist!"

"Don't tell me Sunekosuri is also.... If so, she's really pitiful."

"Kuuu, don't you look over here Sagara Yoshiharu, I will one day sent you back."

"Eh?"

"No, nothing at all."

"Souen-sama's request isn't very hard, Sagara-san. For now, let's just use Himeji castle."

"You have a point, Hanbei-chan."

Just like this, the Sagara corps stationed within Harima's Himeji castle.

Even though Souen keep repeating "It's yours.", but after considering, Yoshiharu entered Himeji castle with the intention of "borrowing" it.

"I will remember your gratitude, Kanbei's father! Ok, let's start the military meeting immediately!"

The current Sagara corps had totally no time to eliminate their fatigue.

Amidst the uproar "How will it turn out?" "I thought that Hime had finally come back, but who would have thought the Kuroda clan is now serving the Oda clan?" " Our future is worrying." of the Kuroda clan, Yoshiharu spread apart the map of Harima and started the military meeting.

And before that, Souen had already first said, "I'm going to look at the wheat in the fields." and left, the Kuroda retainers can only stay and listen to Sagara Yoshiharu and Kanbei.

"Why must Chichiue give this castle to Sagara Yoshiharu, Simon can't understand at all. Is Chichiue's head spoilt or something?"

"Uhh, it might be that Kanbei's Chichiue had predicted that it's time for the Oda clan from now on, just like Kanbei. You must have inherited your intelligence from your Chichiue."

"Chichiue has always been aloof. It's because of this that he didn't walk out from Harima even if he's an extremely smart person, but Simon is different."

"I want to be a wise old man like your father."

"Go ahead and be whatever you want, but Simon is definitely going to explore the world at the other side of the sea."

"Uhh, that's really like what Kanbei would say."

Kanbei turned her gaze onto the map of Harima and started to explain her strategy.

Since Sagara Yoshiharu is going to be sent back to the future, I can just grab back this castle after he's gone.

"Himeji castle is right in the middle of Harima, it's not too much to say that it's the heart of Harima. With this place as our base, we can sent troops in all directions as we please."

Kanbei's voice is full of confidence, making Yoshiharu, part of her audience, nodded with agreement.

"To resist the Mori clan, we must first assume control over 2 castles. One of them is the Bessho clan's castle, Eastern Harima's biggest Miki castle. If this castle is held by the Mori clan, the eastern exit of Harima will be blocked and we will lose our retreat path back to the Oda clan territories."

"Miki castle, huh?"

"The other castle is between Western Harima and Bizen, Mimasaka's boundary, the small mountain fort, Kotsuki castle. In terms of strategy, though that castle isn't important but it is currently under siege by the Mori clan's vanguard, Ukita Naoie. If we abandon them, the daimyos of Harima will all flock to the Mori clan, it is of utmost importance! We must immediately send out reinforcements..... But..."

"But?"

"Simon had already sent out envoys to ask the daimyos of Harima over to Himeji castle. First, we are to persuade them to be the ally of the Oda clan, reinforcements can only wait after that."

"You called all the daimyos here? When did you do that?"

"Simon is a genius strategist, I can be fully efficient even if I'm doing multiple things at the same time.

"There's no time for us to take a breather, this is quite the tense situation."

"Fighting in Harima with so many forces at play is like playing a game of Go, the one who can ally himself with more forces will be the victor. Before the main troops of the Mori clan reach, we must first unify the daimyos of Harima one by one, cough."

While coughing softly, Hanbei explained Kanbei's strategy.

Looking at her endless coughing, Yoshiharu starts to worry about her body.

Even Kanbei look at Hanbei's pale face uneasily, but very soon, she turn her gaze back to the map of Harima.

"Among the daimyos of Harima, the master of Miki castle has the most power, if we can successfully have him as our ally, Harima is as good as Simon's."

"It should be Oda clan's, right?"

"Hoho, it's the same."

The time spent on waiting is just a single day.

With the head of Miki castle leading, after the daimyos of Harima heard "Oda Nobuna has lead her army into Harima." rumors like this, they had all rushed to Himeji castle.

They had arrived faster than Kanbei expected.

Just who will choose the Mori clan, and who the Oda clan?

Troubled over the choice that will decide whether they will be able to continue living, they had rushed over.

Yoshiharu chose to meet with the daimyos at the main hall.

But,

At first, after hearing that "Oda Nobuna had personally led an army into Harima", the daimyos had rushed over, but actually, the Oda clan had only send a small army and it's general is the unheard of Sagara Yoshiharu.

Since before Nobuna hired Yoshiharu, he was someone from the future with no status.

And in Harima who cares about tradition and family status, a proper bloodline is more important than anything else.

"What's with this man?"

"He looks just like a monkey, yet he wears a samurai's attire."

"Who knows where this vagrant comes from?"

"We are the nobles who have protected Harima ever since the start of the Ashikaga Shogunate."

"I don't mind if Oda Nobuna herself comes."

"To actually send a brat with no family status whatsoever and furthermore, he looks weird."

"Actually, why did Kuroda Kanbei not say anything to us before becoming a retainer of the Oda clan?"

Ever since he came to the sengoku era, this is the first time Sagara Yoshiharu sees such a divided group.

It goes without mention for the Oda clan who loves freedom, even Sakai and Kyoto is much better than this.

Terrifed of strangers, Hanbei had long since hugged Yoshiharu's arm and trembled.

"It's ok, Hanbei-chan. At least a fight won't break out immediately."

"Uhh, it's so scary, I'm gonna be bullied, uhh."

"Don't just threw out daggers on reflex."

Kanbei had a troubled face too.

"As expected, there's no one in this bunch of idiots that has the intelligence to understand what Simon said."

Yoshiharu soon gave up on trying to persuade them himself, there is no weight in the words of someone without any family status.

"I beg you, Kanbei! Persuade them to be the Oda clan's ally! I don't think I can, so you who is a local here can only do that."

"Even if it's Simon, I have no weight in their eyes too, it's quite difficult."

"If we can persuade them here, you will have contributed significantly in this battle, Nobuna will definitely reward you greatly."

"There's no helping it, this is also to send Sagara Yoshiharu back."

"Eh? Me? Send, what does that mean?"

"Nothing."

"Say it clearly, I will mind it even more!"

Kanbei felt troubled.

For some unknown reason, the more she mixed around with this man called Sagara Yoshiharu, the more she can't hate him.

Though Yoshiharu is lecherous, but the only thing on his mind is to work hard for Nobuna's interests.

Even if I have let Sunekosuri possess him as a preparation to sending him back, and causing a rift between the relationship of Oda Nobuna and him, he has totally not suspected me.

Though she had thought of him as a dumb fellow at the start, but after actually talking to him, it isn't so.

Why does Yoshiharu trust me so implicitly, Kanbei can't understand this no matter how she thinks about it.

And there is one other matter that Kanbei had on her mind and that is about Takenaka Hanbei....

"Now...."

Kanbei walked to the front of the daimyos and started her speech.

"Gentlemen? Everyone, welcome to Simon's town."

Chan The ment? What is she talking about? A dialect from Kyoto? Though I heard she had went to Kyushuu, but she had really learned unnecessary stuff.

After hearing the whispers from the daimyos, Yoshiharu can't help but sigh (Don't just stir up an atmosphere of distrust.)

"Though I know it's hard to accept for everyone, but before the army of Oda Nobuna arrices, this Sagara Yoshiharu will be the commander in chief, but I don't care much about this Sagara Yoshiharu so you guys can forget about him but the Oda clan's master is Oda Nobuna."

The daimyos immediately whisper among themselves about the bad rumors against Nobuna.

"I heard she burn down Mount Hiei."

"And recently, she's starting to plan about burning the imperial palace."

"She had recently treat the skulls of Asai Nagamasa and Asakura Yoshikage as wine cups and drank from it."

Amongst them, the atmosphere of fear and distrust surrounded them.

"Simon has travelled to many countries, I think the only one who has the ability to unify Japan's sengoku warriors is Oda Nobuna. Ever since the Onin war, Oda Nobuna has been bringing new life to this chaotic country, only through her can we change this closed island into a strong oceanic country, I the genius strategist can guarantee this! Have I been mistaken about the prediction of the future?"

But the daimyos of Harima can not keep up with the speed of Kanbei's mind, to her words, they said, "What's the Onin war?" "What's an oceanic country, is it a name of a snack?" "Is it edible?"

Though Hanbei worryingly said, "You speak too fast, Kanbei. You have to match the audience and speak properly." But Kanbei don't have the power to notice the anger in the hearts of the daimyos and had become furious over how once Kanbei starts talking, her thinking speed starts speeding up.

"The Oda clan does not care about family statuses, as long as one completes his work, he/she will be given the

appropriate reward. If they perform exceedly well in battles, they will become a trusted retainer in the Oda clan. The evidence is that even this useless Sagara Yoshiharu had been rewarded the 250k yield and was tasked with being the commander in chief in the Mori battle!"

Wait, if that's the case, Kanbei has became a trusted retainer of Oda Nobuna, and we have been totally abandoned. So that's how things are, if this goes on, won't we all be the retainers of Kanbei?

The daimyos of Harima can't stand this anymore.

"So everyone, please present your hostage to Sagara Yoshiharu and send reinforcements to Kotsuki castle!"

"WHO'S GOING TO DO THAT!"

The displeased Harima daimyos had all lashed out at Kanbei.

But most of them are only jealous.

"Why must we listen to the orders of you, Kanbei?"

"Think properly about the position of the Kuroda clan first!"

"Aren't you supposed to be an omyouji?"

"When did you forsake your own religion and immerse yourself in some barbaric religion from other countries!?"

"You must be trying to capture Harima for yourself so you have secretly gone and serve under the Oda clan, right!?"

"Did you yourself give any hostage to the Oda clan?"

"Uhh..."

Kanbei was speechless and sat down silently.

Here it comes again.

There is really no one who understands me in Harima.

All I see is darkness.

"Kuroda Kanbei! Don't just sell Harima to this brat just because you are a little more knowledgeable than us!"

"Exactly, and even so, how can we possibly win against the Mori clan with such a small army!?"

"Are you trying to destroy Harima!?"

"I heard Christians are all monsters that drink human blood!"

All the daimyos of Harima are guys and almost all of them are traditional and stubborn.

Even the currently popular princess knights becoming a master of a province is rarely seen.

Originally, they are already very displeased with Kanbei being the master of Himeji castle despite being so young, and just with their jealousy towards her, they shouted, "Scram out of Harima, you monster!"

A man's jealousy is really ugly.

"Yoshiharu-san, the situation is becoming much more dire for us."

Hanbei "Uhh", started weeping and Kanbei "Uh" had totally frozen in place.

"That's... That's why I hate Harima."

"I see, so basically, is this the jealousy towards the talented few? These fellows are afraid of Kanbei's intelligence and so are kicking up a fuss using me being the commander in chief."

"Sagara Yoshiharu?"

Like he's on the verge of exploding, Yoshiharu stood up, with his head lowered.

"YOU BASTARDS ARE SAMURAIS, RIGHT!? BEFORE THAT, YOU GUYS ARE MEN, RIGHT!? WHAT KIND OF A MAN ARE YOU TO FLING SUCH WORDS ON SUCH A SMALL GIRL!? TAKE ME ON IF YOU HAVE THE GUTS!"

Kanbei reflexively said, "Sagara Yoshiharu, you...."

"Though it's nothing to be proud of, but I'm the " Hanged man"! Till now, whether if it's being hanged or something, I do not care at all, now come at me!"

Though the daimyos of Harima were stunned by Yoshiharu for an instant, but they soon regained their composure.

"Totally barbaric, too rude!"

"I'm a noble of Harima!"

"How can we possibly believe in a girl that has forsaken omyoudou to believe in Christianity!?"

"Don't think that because you're a small girl, you can just toy around Harima's future as a temper tantrum."

"If this goes on, we all will be destroyed by the Mori clan."

"From the past, Kuroda Kanbei has been an arrogant and rude person, how can she expect us to treat her as a child now!?"

"Know some shame."

Kanbei didn't argue back,

Tears had already moisten her big eyes.

Yoshiharu finally understood what made Kanbei leave Harima in the first place.

And why did she travel around to Sakai and Kyushuu to learn namban culture ever since she's so small and devote herself under Oda Nobuna.

"You bastards are all so damn noisy!"

Yoshiharu feels anger deep from his heart.

Towards insults on himself, Yoshiharu can be so slow that he deflected all of it, but looking at how a bunch of mature men lashing out at a small girl, he just can't take it down.

And that small girl is Kuroda Kanbei, the renowned strategist of sengoku history.

"Now that the Mori clan's vanguard has attacked right in front of your eyebrows, a bunch of men are still here talking about things like family statuses, the word ignorant was invented for you guys!"

"What did you say!?"

"Listen, I came from the future, a future 400 years from now! The things you guys are talking about, unknown origins or low family status, these things you guys treat like treasure have disappeared completely in the future 400 years from now!"

"How rude is this!?" The daimyos of Harima had all stood up and came near Yoshiharu.

"The only name of warriors born in Harima that is left in history is Kanbei! You bastards will definitely be forgotten if this goes on!"

"You're ly....lying!!""

"I'm not lying! You guys said Kanbei wants to take Harima as her own? You're guys are so uncreative! The future stage that Kanbei will be active will never be a small place like Harima, it's Japan, no, the whole world!"

"Wo....World!? Where is that!?"

"I mean, THIS PLANET!"

"What'd you mean by this planet!?"

We have no idea what the hell this guy is talking about , but though we can't understand, confidence exudes out from all over his body.

The daimyos from Harima were totally overcome by Yoshiharu and can't even start to get jealous of Kanbei.

"The man who came from the future... Don't tell me, that rumor is true?"

"This tone doesn't seem like he's lying."

"It's true that he does not seem smart enough to lie through his teeth."

"Uhh, please calm down, Yoshiharu-san. These people aren't our enemies, but if we infuriate them, there won't be any room for negotiations."

Hanbei tugged at Yoshiharu's sleeve, and the latter " Ah..." and finally calmed down.

"Things like side characters should not be said, Sagara Yoshiharu." Even Kanbei can't take it and sigh.

"Didn't I tell you that you can't change history with just the strength of you yourself, there are countless

people actually creating history, it's not good to classify them as side characters."

Same as Hanbei, Kanbei held onto Yoshiharu's sleeve, but her fingers are trembling slightly.

"So, I won't thank you for protecting me."

Looking at her moist eyes, Yoshiharu laughed bitterly and thought (How don't you just honestly say the words that make me feel happier?)

After discovering for the first time that Kanbei has a cute side, Yoshiharu feels a little closer to this girl.

"Kanbei, you're really a good person."

"It's not like that at all, Sagara Yoshiharu, you arrogant idiot. Don't keep talking and mess up history."

"Understood, you guys can go back."

Yoshiharu gave the order "I will send Northern Omi's delicacies "Mackerel vermicelli" as a gift, so go back now. " to the Harima daimyos who had been silent halfway through.

This is the first time he sees Kanbei being so tame and putting a cute expression without any devious intent, Yoshiharu feels that even his rage had been blown away.

"You don't have to send over hostages."

"Why?"

"Beacuse there's not a need to. Those hostages are all your children, right? I can't hurt those children, so it will be meaningless even if I accept hostages."

"Ohhhhh, how magnanimous this is!"

After hearing that, the daimyos of Harima had all " Let's ally with the Oda clan" in their minds as they left Himeji castle..... It was supposed to be so.

But, it's unforunate that on Yoshiharu's body, there's an even scarier thing compared to his women troubles.

The master of Harima's biggest Miki castle is a young guy around 20 years old.

Maybe it's because he's young that makes him easily moved.

He was mesmerized by Yoshiharu's character and said ,

"Sagara Yoshiharu-dono, please accept my younger sister as a hostage, no, please treat her as your god-sister! "

And then, he pushed a girl no older than 5 years old that was sitting on his lap into his hand.

This was supposed to be the instant that the daimyos of Harima and the Oda clan had allied together, it was supposed to be so....

But....

"This new older brother looks like a monkey."

"Oi Setsuko! Don't say unnecessary stuff! This man will be your older brother from today on!"

"Him!? Hmmm, don't touch weird places!"

"Eh? Setsuko?"

"This new brother is a pervert! He used furry hands and keep touch Setsuko's crotch, ahhh!!"

"EHHHH!!! YO...WHAT DID YOU DO TO SETSUKO, YOU PERVERT!"

"It's not like this, the one who was touching is Sunekosuri! I'm not a lolicon!"

"Onii-chan, not there, huh? I....I'm going to leak!"

"Oi Sunekosuri! You were sleeping just now, why did you come and mess things up at such a critical moment!? "

"You demon! Your actions had smeared the reputation of the Oda clan! To actually do such a thing to Setsuko when she's still so small, unforgivable!"

"The rumors about the one from the future is a hopeless lolicon is actually true!"

Hanbei helplessly sighed.

"What a shocking fact, are you an idiot, Sagara Yoshiharu?"

"Isn't this because you had let Sunekosuri possess me, Kanbei!? Hurry and take it away from me!"

In the end, with a misunderstanding like "Once Sagara Yoshiharu is infuriated, he will become very scary, and will also be a pervert beyond what ordinary people can ever hope to understand.", the terrified Harima daimyos returned back to their castles without sending Yoshiharu any hostages.

From a good point of view, they no longer have the guts to oppose Yoshiharu and Kanbei and they won't become their enemies.

But from the bad point of view, the manpower the Sagara corps is still 5000, it's totally impossible to resist the Mori clan with that number.

Just when Yoshiharu and the rest were troubled, Souen walked in and said something very surprising.

"Hoho~, Kanbei. Though you're suave by contributing Himeji castle to the Oda clan without hoping for compensation, but you are not detailed enough. To let the Hime-sama of the Oda clan who was exhausted from Tenka Fubu be easy, you must send over your little sister , Shojyomaru as a hostage. If you are going to do that, how about sending her to the castle of Sagara Yoshiharu-dono?"

"Hmm? Though Simon doesn't feel that's necessary."

"Though you are knowledgeable, but your relationship skills need some brushing up. And if you send a hostage over to the Oda clan, the numerous daimyos might just imitate you."

"Is that so? But due to Sagara Yoshiharu revealing his perverted nature, I think there won't be any effect even if I do that."

It's Sunekosuri! Yoshiharu tried his best to correct him.

"And....."

"And?"

"Hoho~ This time, our opponents are the shrewd Mori clan and the despicable Ukita, they are not people we can easily win. Considering that the possibility of we meeting a mishap, we should at least send Shojyomaru to a safe place."

After hearing that, Kanbei unhappily said, "With Simon as the strategist, a mishap or something is impossible."

"Though it's true that your head is smart, but in terms of strategizing, the Mori clan is better, since you aren't skilled in planning devious schemes."

"That might not be so, Chichiue. Actually, I Simon am currently secret planning to send Sagara Yoshiharu back to the future.... No, nothing at all."

"Hehe, didn't you say everything out? You are always like this, though you want to hide it, but you can't help but wish for others to know."

"Uhh...."

"Forget about strange schemes, Kanbei. It's unsuitable for you, do trust your comrades more. Shojyomaru is the first step that you form a true comrade relationship with the Sagara corps."

"Chichiue, even if you say that, Simon will not send Shojyomaru over as a hostage."

But,

"Aneue, wars are so scary."

Around the same age as Nene, Shojyomaru poke her head out from behind the pillar as she trembled slightly. Kanbei immediately changed her mind.

"Shojyomaru feels scared, huh? I understand, how about going to Nagahama castle to play?"

"Ok, Aneue!"

"If Sagara Yoshiharu suddenly returns to Nagahama and does some strange thing to you, stab him to death with this dagger."

"Ok, Aneue!"

"Hmm~ Shojyumaru is so cute, come over and gimme a hug!"

"Ok, Aneue!"

"Huh!? So cute, so cute, cutie cutie!"

Basically, Kanbei is the type that will be cold to everyone, but her sister is totally different.

Kanbei's love for Shojyomaru had already reached the level of the nyankousou have for cats.

Looking at Kanbei's smile that came from her heart when she is hugging Shojyomaru, Yoshiharu laughed and thought (This change is a little too big, but it seems like this fellow is a girl after all.)

Looking at the sisters being so close to each other, Hanbei said enviously, "What a cute younger sister".

"Though I got a feeling that Nagahama is closer to being a harem of lolis, but there is Nene there accompanying Shojyumaru, there's no need to worry."

"Yes, Nene will definitely be a good companion."

Yoshiharu and Hanbei smiled and agreed to Souen's suggestion.

"Listen Sagara Yoshiharu. If you dare do anything strange to Shojyomaru, I'm going to kill you immediately ."

"That's why I'm saying, I'm not a lolicon. And I can't leave Harima right now!"

Just like this, Kanbei sent her younger sister Shoyjomaru as a hostage over to Nagahama castle under her father Souen's persuasion.

"Of course, after this, the Harima daimyos all said, "I heard Kanbei had sent out a hostage." "The suspicions that she's trying to capture Harima for herself..." "With this, it's clear now." and had calmed down.

Though they still can't have any reinforcements, but with this, they had done all the preparations.

It's time to help out Kotsuki castle,

But for the first time, Kanbei's determination for forcing Yoshiharu back to the future had diminished a little.

If she didn't send him back, the future of Oda Nobuna will become totally messed up. Though due to Sunekosuri's possession, she had a little more time, but there's a limit to it. To save Oda Nobuna from her destiny of the "Tower", she has to send Yoshiharu back ASAP.

But every time she recalls the look on Yoshiharu's face when he was trying his best to defend her from the Harima daimyos, Kanbei's chest feels constricted, and her head starts to feel warm.

A thought in Kanbei's heart becomes more and more intense and that is, maybe she had finally met someone that can become her lifetime friend.

(A way to protect Oda Nobuna and not send Sagara Yoshiharu back to the future..... No, I can't think of any.)

Though Kanbei is starting to understand that she might have some big misunderstanding towards Sagara Yoshiharu, but what exactly did she misunderstand, she have no way to find out. Originally, finding out what others are thinking is not what Kanbei is skilled at and learning about tarot cards is meant to help with that.

And,

The future that the tarot card hints at Takenaka Hanbei troubles Kanbei too.

Though without thinking, she had put the card back into the pile without anyone seeing, but Kanbei had

always wondered whether that was the correct thing to do.

The reason is... The card that Hanbei had drew when she is asking about her "health"

"How can that be, it must be because the tarot cards aren't extremely accurate. Because there's not much science involved, there must be a mistake somewhere, how can that be possible!"

For the first time in her life, Kanbei is at a loss of what to do.

She had not noticed that this had casted a shadow on her intelligence.

Kotsuki castle is a small mountain fort at the most western spot of Harima.

The daimyo there is considered as a small power in Harima, total forces amount to only 2000.

As the Mori clan's vanguard, Ukita Naoie had surrounded Kotsuki castle with his 10k strong army.

Normally, with such a castle, a force 5 times it's strength will be able to conquer it if they had attacked it violently.

But Ukita Naoie did not choose to do that, but only surrounding it.

Though his retainers had all said, "If we delay any longer, the Oda army reinforcements will reach us." "I heard the vanguard of the Oda clan has already entered Himeji castle." and were very anxious, but Naoie himself had brushed them off.

And then, this day finally arrived.

"The vanguard of the Oda clan, Sagara Yoshiharu had lead his army of 5k and head towards Kotsuki castle!"

Hearing this, Ukita Naoie spinned his short arquebus around his finger and smiled confidently, "Is that so? Is that so?"

"Did the daimyos of Harima lend their army to the Oda clan?"

"No."

"But it looks like they do not rely on the Mori clan, they must be observing the situation."

"If that's the case, Himeji castle is basically empty and Kotsuki castle is already ours anyway."

"Huh?"

"Himeji castle is too far, my lord. It's impossible to attack it now."

"It is definitely so."

Naoie revealed her sharp dog-like teeth and laughed, " Hahaha. Looks like no one among my retainers had seen through my plan."

"My lord has some plan?"

"Are you planning to assassinate Sagara Yoshiharu?"

"I heard there's a very strong ninja Hachisuka Goemon under Sagara Yoshiharu. Even if we send assassins, it will be useless. Of course, if I myself am the one to do it, things will be different."

"My lord, are you planning to sneak into the enemy's camp yourself!?"

"That's too dangerous, please reconsider."

Naoie waved his hand and said, "Relax. Even If I don't make such a dangerous gamble, the victor in this battle will definitely be me, hahaha."

Ukita Naoie does not have the experience of capturing castles by honorable battles.

Bizen and Mimasaka that this man owns are almost all obtained by using schemes, assassinations and betrayals.

"It's necessary to sacrifice a little, attack Kotsuki castle now, my lord."

"I agree too, the Mori clan is observing us at the back too."

"That is quite scary indeed. Kobayakawa Takakage seems to want my territories and as for Kikkawa Motoharu, I'm afraid the thing she wants is my life."

"So we should conquer Kotsuki castle ASAP."

"No, I won't attack Kotsuki castle, continue maintaining our siege."

"WHAT?"

"Why, my lord?"

"At least use your brain a little, if you guys are like this all the time, none of you will be able to revolt and cut off my head."

"W...We....We...We have totally no intention to revolt!"

"I...I...I...I...If we are disloyal, we will definitely be strike by lightning!"

"Hmph, it's more interesting to have a ferocious tiger-like retainer who bare his fangs at me all day."

Naoie swing his short arquebus at the retainers and laughed evilly, "Anyway, I have not assassinate any important person with this arquebus recently, how boring."

Naoie's retainers all trembled upon hearing.

"Listen, because of fearing the Mori clan, it's too dumb to waste unnecessary troops on a head to head battle with the Oda clan. Plotting is to see through the opponent's plans and devise a set of strategies against it, and my plan from now on is....."

The Sagara corps that left Himeji castle pitched camp on a small hill not far from Kotsuki castle.

They are able to look over at the camp of Ukita Naoie that was surrounding Kotsuki castle from here.

Till now, Ukita Naoie's army had been silently allowing Sagara corps to move around.

Even if Yoshiharu sent out scouts multiple times, the opponent did not react at all.

Yoshiharu who had expected that the battle would break out as soon as he reached felt that something was off.

Gashing his teeth, he said, "Even if we provoke them, they do not move at all. Are they ignoring us just because our forces are insufficient to face them?"

While coughing lightly, Hanbei observes the "Ki" of Ukita Naoie's camp.

"Yoshiharu-san, the army of Kotsuki castle is around 2000, but the Ukita army that surrounds Kotsuki castle is at 10k."

"10k, huh? Our manpower amounts up to 5k, if the fuss of Sunekosuri didn't happen back at Himeji castle, this number would have increase a little."

"Yoshiharu-san, Kotsuki castle is too small, it's not suitable to capture the opponent's base."

"How about this, Hanbei-chan? We take the initiative to attack the Ukita army so as to break the containment?"

"Though Ukita Naoie is one of the 3 evils and is skilled in assassination and scheming, but according to my research, he is extremely skilled in commanding soldiers in the battlefield."

"Eh? The 3 evils, who is the other 2?"

"Uhh, the other two are the already passed away Mino's Saitou Dousan-sama and Matsunaga Danjo Hisahide-sama."

"Is that so, if it's them though they are called the 3 evils , but after actually talking to them, they are just misunderstood for being too modern with their thinking. Isn't Nobuna like this too? So, with this thought in mind, can Ukita Naoie be actually a good guy too?"

"Definitely not."

Hanbei starts to explain to Yoshiharu about the behavior of Ukita Naoie.

"Till now, all the warriors that died by Ukita's hand are almost all due to despicable traps. His most common technique is to act as his victim's friend to let them drop their guard before assassinating them. The first victim

was his wife's father, and then, his god-sister's multiple husbands, that is how his territories increase."

"A true blue bastard, I am speechless."

Once he thought that he has to fight with such a demonic man, Yoshiharu wants to cry out.

Is it really good to drag Hanbei-chan into a fight with such a man?

"But that does not mean Ukita Naoie knows nothing about wars. In actual fact, he is extremely skilled in defending. If not, he would have been assassinated long before by the Mori clan if he just loves assassinations, uhh."

"It's hard to succeed if we tried to force our way in, and if we enter the battle personally, we might be assassinated. What a difficult fellow!"

"To provoke his opponent, he uses his short arquebus to assassinate the enemy's commander in chief. And then , he eliminates all of his opponent's army who attack him out of fury, such things have happened before too."

"Uwahh! Nooo!! I had hoped for a more honorable battle!"

"All in all, charging in without any plan will most likely result in utter defeat."

Kanbei who had just returned back to camp touched her nose and said loudly, "After actually observing the enemy's formation, Simon has already thought of a strategy!"

"Oioi, that's too dangerous Kanbei. The opponent is that Ukita Naoie, if you are careless, you might be assassinated, be more mindful of your own safety!"

"Simon knows there's risk involved, but Simon won't die here. Because Simon holds the destiny of helping Oda Nobuna's Tenka Fubu!"

"Did you do the tarot card divination on yourself?"

"Simon won't do it to herself, because the result will be affected. Anyway, Simon has discovered a small path that can sneak into Kotsuki castle just now! Let Simon sneak in alone and persuade them to cooperate with us and do a pincer attack against Ukita Naoie!"

"Kanbei, can you really sneak into the besieged Kotsuki castle?"

"I can."

"But what if you failed in persuading them, what will you do?"

"Saying "What if" is so rude, Sagara Yoshiharu. I will definitely succeed!"

At this moment, Goemon returned to camp and brought alone an envoy covered with wounds.

"Oh, Goemon!? Who is this soldier?"

"Ninnin, braving death, he's an envoy sent from Kotsuki castle."

"I...I have brought along a le... letter by the master of Kotsuki castle."

After the envoy struggled to hand over the letter, he fainted with numerous arrows sticking on his back.

What heavy injuries are this! Kanbei and Hanbei averted their gaze.

"Hurry and help with his wounds, Goemon. He could still be saved!"

"Ninnin, understood."

On the blood soaked letter, it wrote "When the smoke signal is raised tonight, we will open the Kotsuki gates and assault the Ukita army, please cooperate with us for a pincer attack."

"It's right on time, it save us from the effort of sneaking in."

"This suggestion is hard to reject."

Looking at the injured envoy, Yoshiharu made the verdict "He is really betting his life on it, this isn't a trap." If this is Ukita Naoie's scheme, the Ukita army will definitely not injured him this badly.

But Hanbei have a different conclusion.

"Uhhh, it's ok if they had agreed to our suggestion. The fact that the master of Kotsuki castle has not discussed anything with the Oda clan and made such a decision is too unnatural."

"You're too cautious Takenaka Hanbei. Always being so careful, where are your guts?"

"Kanbei, scheming is what Ukita Naoie is best at, we will really be in trouble if this is a trap."

"No risk, no gain. Simon has an important mission and can never die at such a place. As a strategist, you're too timid."

"Optimistic thinking is fatal to strategists, Kanbei!"

"It's because of this personality you have that you drew that card."

"Cardo?"

"No, I didn't say anything."

"Oh yeah, Kanbei. Use your tarot cards to check our luck in battle tonight."

"Simon doesn't like to use tarot cards for things like battle, we should rely on our intelligence for such things! "

"Ok already, just use it as a reference."

Kanbei said, "There's no helping it." and pull out her tarot cards and put it in front of Yoshiharu.

If it's in the past, she will definitely reject Yoshiharu's suggestion. But the Kanbei now has dark clouds covering her heart.

"Our luck in battle tonight, I'm drawing now."

"Uhhh, what did you drew?"

"Hmmm, the "Moon", huh? It hints "Hidden enemies, failure.", isn't a good card at all."

"The Moon",huh?

Hanbei tilt her head slightly and sink into her thoughts .

"Since it's an assault in the night, the brightness of the moon will be extremely useful to us. But looks like the moon tonight won't affect our battle at all."

"There isn't much of an effect, huh? Since you're the one who said that, that should be it."

Hanbei nodded and said, "Yes."

"Then Kanbei and I will lead the troops for an assault, Hanbei-chan, you stay in the camp to protect it."

"Understood, but please don't overexert yourself, Yoshiharu-san."

"With Simon as the strategist, there won't be any problems."

"I can understand that Kanbei being full of motivation from being thankful towards Yoshiharu-san who had defended you in Himeji castle, but as a strategist, you still lack a little cautiousness."

"Che, it's impossible for Simon to be thankful to that Sagara Yoshiharu!"

"Is that so, it's a different case from my point of view. Being protected by warm words for the first time by someone other than your family members, you can't express the feelings of gratitude with words."

Kanbei blushed immediately upon hearing.

"N....Not at all! In the end, Sagara Yoshiharu will only hinder my dream."

"Eh? Dream? What's that, Kanbei?"

"No....Nothing at all, geez!"

"Uhhh, Kanbei's "Ki" had became a mess after being agitated. If there's anything you can't think through, please discuss it with me. There's already.... not much time left."

"Time? Isn't there lots of time still? And Simon does not have anything that she can't think through!"

Hanbei smiled with difficulty and said, "There's no helping it then."

"Now, the two of you should take a step back and not quarrel anymore. OK then, let's start the assault!"

Though they had drawn an inauspicious card, but Yoshiharu wasn't affected by it. He believes strongly that fate is controlled by his own hands.

It's a new moon that night.

Under the moonlight, the camp formation of the Ukita army surrounded Kotsuki castle.

At the outskirts, Yoshiharu and Kanbei lead an assault troop amounting 2k and sneaked near towards a quiet area in the Ukita army's camp.

The rest of the 5k strong Sagara corps, a total of 3k is currently staying in the camp under Takenaka Hanbei's command.

"Looks like they are all sleeping, they have let down their guard just because our numbers are insufficent!"

On the horse, Kanbei snorted and pointed to the front.

"Look Sagara Yoshiharu, that is the signal for the assault."

From the rooftop of Kotsuki castle, a trail of smoke rises up into the sky, the castle gates had opened silently. Numerous soldiers rushed right into the camp of Ukita's army.

The Ukita army was instantly in a state of confusion.

"We did it! If Hanbei is here, she will definitely say, " The Ukita army's Ki is in a mess now."

"Things like omyouji is already outdated."

"When Kanbei is in Harima, weren't you an omyouji too?"

"The Simon now has already abandon the past and become the new generation's scientific strategist. As long as I can mass produce "Oh~ It stopped"-kun, Oda Nobuna will be able to unify Japan in 2 to 3 years time, even a thing like conquering the world won't be just a dream anymore."

"A humanoid machine used in wars has not been successful even in the 21st century. No matter how good Kanbei's head is, you won't be able to surpass the limit of the generations, it's better to be realistic."

"A prophet is never welcomed in his hometown"

"Say it in Japanese."

""A prophet is never welcomed in his hometown", this is Simon's favorite line in the holy bible. Though the Christian Jesus is a son of a wordsmith, no one in his hometown understands him."

"Eh, so?"

"The holy bible had already prophesized that Simon will receive suffering in Himeji castle, you must be shocked, right? Even the holy bible from across the wide oceans had recorded Simon's achievements, hehe."

Yoshiharu laughed bitterly and thought, (Though I'm a very confident person too, but compared to Kanbei.....)

"Ok, it's about time for us to attack too."

"Wait, Simon is currently digitizing the chaotic condition of the enemy formation and choosing a most suitable attack position."

"Digitizing? How do you digitize the chaotic condition of the enemy's formation?"

"With mathematical equations, quiet down. If I'm distracted, there will be a mistake in the result."

"Oioi, why did you start calculating with a book suddenly on the horse, and by the way, what's that?"

"It's a three dimensional equation, you didn't learn such a simple equation in the future? That's too big of a shock."

"Uhh, I played too much sengoku games so I didn't learn much of math."

"Ok, it's done. Right here, attack right at the enemy's demon gate!"

"Demon gate? I don't think the three dimensional equation can solve such a thing, don't tell me you are just acting, and the thing you are actually doing is the same as Hanbei-chan's omyoudou?"

"If a man is picky with everything, he will never grow up!"

"Forget it, everyone. Our target is the confused Ukita army right in front of us, CHARGE!"

Understood!

Got it!

GOOOO!!

The 2k Sagara army rushed in a straight line, right into the Ukita army's camp that was in a state of confusion from the assault.

Though their amount isn't much, but this troop full of Kawanami clan with Maeda as their head had all survived through the retreat of Kanegasaki, and under the precise orders of Kanbei, their strength had multiplied by two no, three times.

"The Oda army has attacked!"

"Run for your lives!"

In their sleep, the Ukita army who had suffered the pincer attack had premonitions of being totally destroyed .

"We succeeded! As expected, compared to the tarot cards, Simon's intelligence is better! Hehe."

"As expected of Kuroda Kanbei! When we capture Ukita Naoie, it will be our victory!"

Yoshiharu and Kanbei head towards the depths of the enemy formation.

The soldiers of the Ukita army are scattered, upon being assaulted, it takes them lots of time to form back into their formations, both Yoshiharu and Kanbei had believed this firmly.

"All are not permitted to kill surrendered soldiers! Let those escaping soldiers go! There's only one target, and that is to capture the enemy's commander in chief, Ukita Naoie alive!"

"Ohh? Look there, Sagara Yoshiharu. The smoke signal is there again!"

"EH!?"

Turning in the direction Kanbei pointed, the roof of Kotsuki castle had another trail of smoke rising up.

"Kanbei, did the letter says anything about the second smoke signal?"

"What's going on, the army of Kotsuki castle had suddenly started attacking us!"

"Damn, we have fallen into Ukita Naoie's trap, Kanbei! "

"Don't tell me!"

"That terribly injured envoy was just a bait to lure us into the trap! During this period of time, Kotsuki castle had already been captured by Ukita Naoie! The surroundings and the envoy are all acts for us!"

"How can that be, how can that possibly be. That envoy is really having injuries close to death!"

"According to Hanbei, Ukita Naoie is someone who can do such a thing calmly."

"Even if it's Ukita Naoie, it's impossible. When did he capture Kotsuki castle?"

"No idea, but when we reached, Kotsuki castle was actively resisting the Ukita army, we've been done in."

""The hidden enemy" "The Moon" is hinting, huh? But. .."

Kanbei violently understood why she, with all her intellect and wit was actually able to fall into such a simple trap...

Her current intellect and strategies had already been shrouded by shadows.

The cause of these shadows is because of Sagara Yoshiharu and Takenaka Hanbei, and she herself.

Right now, the only thing the two of them can do is to try their best to clear a path back to the camp.

But, that might be useless in the end.

During this period of time, the Kotsuki castle's army and Ukita's army had already surrounded Yoshiharu and Kanbei.

Their own forces had been forced out of the surround. The current Yoshiharu and Kanbei had been totally isolated.

Both Yoshiharu and Kanbei rapidly understand that they no longer have any way to escape.

"Sagara Yoshiharu, Simon has never had the plan to kill you, it's my mistake that it has become like this."

"I understand, it's all that Ukita Naoie who is too scheming and shrewd!"

The horse that Yoshiharu is on suddenly shook violently.

Neighhhh!!

Just when Yoshiharu lowered his body to not be shaken off by the horse, a bullet flew past his head.

"Uwahhhhh!? What a close one!?"

".....Che, this guy is just too lucky, but I won't let you dodge it again!"

From the midst of the numerous soldiers surrounding them, a samurai walked out with his short namban arquebus.

This samurai had a well trained body, his seasoned face is full of mature charm. Within his stern gaze not

losing to a fierce tiger, one can see his dignified nature from many years of a higher status, his slightly seperated lips revealed hard looking dog teeth.

"Who are you?"

Kanbei suddenly "Ahh" shouted loudly.

"Look at the insignia on that arquebus, Sagara Yoshiharu. This man is the "Princess Knight Killer", Ukita Naoie himself!"

"Princess Knight Killer?"

"Ukita Naoie's nickname."

Ukita Naoie laughed loudly on his steed.

"Correct, I'm Ukita Naoie! Who could have expected that you would fall into such a simple trap. Looks like the legendary Sagara Yoshiharu and Kuroda Kanbei are nothing extraordinary!"

"Seriously trying to kill your disguised envoy, and tonight, you had ordered Kotsuki castle to seriously kill your own troops, you are not a human anymore, Ukita Naoie."

Though Kanbei tried her best to raise her volume, but Ukita Naoie brushed it off and said, "What do you know, you immature brat."

"Sagara Yoshiharu, able to dodge my attack, you might really be a monkey. But that will only delay your death."

Ukita Naoie smiled sinisterly as he aims at Sagara Yoshiharu's head again.

"Wait, at least make me understand before I die, when did you capture Kotsuki castle?"

"The master's wife is one of the women who has dedicated her own life to me. She had imprisoned her husband and gave me Kotsuki castle, this is my way of doing things, wahahahaha!"

"Damn, such a ridiculous thing is on a level of art that I who is being called a pervert after my women troubles can never attain."

"Sagara Yoshiharu, though I don't have any grudges against you, but right now, the Mori clan twin sisters have been waiting for me to make mistakes, for my own safety, I will have you die here!"

(It's impossible to dodge, I'm going to be hit!) Sagara Yoshiharu hugged his horse's neck tightly and resolved himself to die.

"Uhh, if "Oh~ It stopped"-kun can be used in actual battles...."

"Oi, don't do unnecessary things, Kuroda Kanbei! My prey is only Sagara Yoshiharu, a brat like you can just escape back to Himeji castle."

"Simon isn't a brat."

"A brat, though you dream of being the best strategist in the world, but you are only at the level of easily falling into such a simple trap."

"Uhhh..."

Kanbei has no words for a retort, her big eyes are already full of tears, filled with regret.

Why did we lose, is it because we are lost from our path? Is it because a shadow had clouded my heart? Is it because we had ignored the result of the tarot cards? Or is it because we are anxious about trying to achieve something? Or because I want to save Oda Nobuna

ASAP? Because I'm anxious to study overseas? Or wanting to repay Sagara Yoshiharu or not to wanting to lose to Takenaka Hanbei?

Different emotions and feelings intertwined in her head, she just can't think of a way to get out of this hopeless situation.

The only thing she understands to an absolute certainty is that it's her fault that Sagara Yoshiharu is in such a critical situation.

"Kanbei, this fellow's target is me. I will rush at him later, use this chance to escape."

Looking at Yoshiharu's determined expression, a warm feeling starts sprouting from Kanbei's chest as she shouts loudly without hesitating.

"I'm not running away!"

"Idiot, I'm begging you, hurry and escape!"

"The strategist is Simon, right!? The one who should be shouldering the responsibility of failure is Simon!"

"Who's the one who decide that!? If I just allow girls to die, the name of Sagara Yoshiharu will weep! Anyway, start running now!"

"No, I've accepted your kindness in Himeji castle."

"From now on, your participation is needed in many areas, that is your destiny! I have protected you because I wanted to see that happening, there's nothing for you to accept!"

"You are the idiot! Simon is only near you to chase you back to the future! Why weren't you ever suspicious of me!? Why do you trust me this much!?"

"Chase me back to the future? Can such a thing really be done!?"

"It can be done! As long as you exist, Oda Nobuna's destiny of Tenka Fubu will be messed up! This chaotic era will never end! Simon's dream of studying at the namban countries will never come true! So, Simon wants to chase you back to the future!"

"Kanbei..."

"You're annoying! Yet you...."

Yoshiharu shouted, "I don't care about myself, Kanbei, at least you must live on!" and interrupted Kanbei.

"The words I said in Himeji castle aren't lies! In the history I know of, Kuroda Kanbei will be the best strategist in Japan! You are the best! Because the other genius strategist Takenaka Hanbei, she...."

"!?"

Kanbei's expression was frozen in an instant.

Just what is this Sagara Yoshiharu who came from the future talking about?

Don't tell me....

Don't tell me that card is hinting....

"Wait? Hanbei-chan? What Were you trying to say just now?'

Yoshiharu is currently in a life or death situation.

Though he had experienced it countless times in "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou", but till now, that "event" he just can't recall starts to float into his mind in such a crucial situation.

But Sagara Yoshiharu (I must be imagining things, It's because I'm dying soon that my brain is malfunctioning...) had once again forgotten about that "event".

After shaking his head furiously, the last fragments of the memory had disappeared too.

"You had even forgotten what you're saying!? You are really an authentic idiot."

"No, I'm just confused, that's all. It's all good now, I'm back to normal!"

"Ahh.... Ahh, it's such a great help that your relationship is so bad, what a strange pair of superior and subordinate. Next, though I want to listen to this small skit between the two of you, but it's time for goodbyes."

Ukita Naoie is about to pull the trigger at point blank range.

Kanbei cried, "NO!!!!!!" as she dived, wanting to use her own body to shield Yoshiharu.

But Yoshiharu hugged Kanbei tightly instead and push her small body down, using his own back to block her from Naoie's bullet.

"I'm sorry for messing history up, Kanbei. I'm leaving Nobuna to you."

His smile is so gentle, yet filled with deep sorrow.

Finally, Kanbei realize that she had made a terrible mistake.

Sagara Yoshiharu isn't here to mess up Oda Nobuna's destiny.

Oda Nobuna's destiny had long been doomed by the sorrow hinted by the "Tower" card before Sagara Yoshiharu even appears.

Though she have no idea why, but Oda Nobuna will soon be enveloped by huge flames in the "Tower", and at the same time, those flames will mark the end of the love between Sagara Yoshiharu and her.

And this Sagara Yoshiharu who came from the future knows the exact destiny awaiting Oda Nobuna from the start.

(So to change Oda Nobuna's destiny, Sagara Yoshiharu actually.....)

As expected, this fellow is an idiot down to his core. If that's the case, why didn't he just use Simon as a meat shield and live on no matter what, big idiot!!

But, it's too late now that Kanbei knows.

"Farewell..."

He pulled the trigger.

To protect Kanbei, Yoshiharu did no movements to dodge or avoid it.

Ever since she had converted to Christianity due to curiosity, for the first time, no, maybe since she was born, Kanbei prayed hard to God.

This time...

The moon that was shining brightly over at Kotsuki castle was shrouded by dark clouds.

The whole hill was shrouded in complete darkness.

Kachang!

The bullet flew past Yoshiharu's head, brushing off his helmet.

Because of the moon being suddenly shrouded causing complete darkness, Ukita's fatal shot had also missed.

"Che! What a lucky bastard, but my eyes will soon be used to it!?"

A shout came from an unexpected direction, this time, it's Ukita Naoie's turn to be shocked.

"What!?"

"My lord! The enemy has invaded Kotsuki castle from a secret tunnel."

"In an instant, the empty Kotsuki castle was conquered ."

"Enemy? How can that be possible, the main camp of Sagara's army show no traces of movements!"

"It's not Sagara's army!"

"The emblem of four squares, that's the Amako's heroes!"

The clouds scattered.

At the same time the moon appears, the old Amako clan's retainer who had conquered Kotsuki castle had charged right at Ukita Naoie.

And the one leading them, is the short hair bishoujo samurai wearing the crescent helm....

"....The new moon, please grant me suffering....."

Ukita Naoie's expression was instantly frozen but Kanbei and Yoshiharu had opened their eyes with shock.

"My name is Yamanaka Shikanosuke! For my wish to restore the Amako clan, I swore to be part of Sagara Yoshiharu's strength!"

Correct, she is the Amako clan general that was destroyed by the Mori clan, the boss of the Amako's heroes, Yamanaka Shikanosuke.

When her lord's clan was destroyed, though she had reverted back to a drifter, she had continued defying the powerful Mori clan without any sense of fear. Though they can only see this girl's side view, the atmosphere exuding from her body had affected everyone present.

"It's the "Moon"... The "Moon" had helped Sagara Yoshiharu...."

Intense feelings rushed up Kanbei's chest as she was lost for words for a moment.

But Yoshiharu instead....

"Wh...What a beautiful and cute girl! This is a rarely seen proper bishoujo even in the sengoku era! To this sengoku era filled with all sorts of weird girls, she's a very important specimen!"

We've been saved! At the same time he was relived, Yoshiharu had changed back to his usual cheerful self instantly.

"Sagara Yoshiharu, you aren't just an idiot but a pervert too! What a big shocking revelation!"

"Look Kanbei, look at that pair of trembling breasts on horseback, that's the essence of beauty! This is too moving, I have finally transcended from bishoujos to Ane types! You must work hard and grow to be like a bishoujo like her!"

"Sunekosuri who is possessing you will become a pervert too, right?"

Receiving such a surprising impact, it's Ukita's army's turn to be confused.

The bravery of Yamanaka Shikanosuke and the fearless Amako's heroes charge was respected in the Chuugoku region as "Dead soldiers".

"Charge right into Ukita's army like this! There's only one target, and that is the head of Ukita Naoie!"

"OHHHHHHHHHHH!!!"

Ahh, that voice is fabulous too... Looking at the gallant stance of Yamanaka Shikanosuke on the battlefield, Yoshiharu can't avert his eyes.

"I've found you, Ukita Naoie!"

"Damn! Though I thought you would pop up soon, but who could have thought I would be interrupted by you."

"Evil and sinister villian, fight with me honorably and die!"

But without hearing until finish what Shikanosuke have to say, Ukita Naoie ran away, with his back facing her.

"Che, though Shikanosuke is a samurai with remarkable martial arts, but I've never heard that she had such a level of intelligence, just what is going on tonight!?"

Ukita Naoie's speed at running away is the best.

Whether it's in the battlefield or the situation, he has the ability to see through the odds swiftly.

"Wahahaha, though I have lost to you in this battle, but the winner will be the one who survives in the end!"

"Coward! Fight me honorably!"

"It's only now that you can be happy, Yamanaka Shikanosuke! With my intelligence, the tide will turn soon enough, see ya!"

Ukita Naoie does not care about his own troops at all and escapes from the battlefield.

But even though the Ukita army was instantly in shatters after their commander escaped, but the speed of these soldiers escaping were all shockingly fast, like they are used to running away.

Yamanaka Shikanosuke wants to pursue Ukita Naoie, but with just a blink, he had disappeared.

Finally returning back to her calm state, Kanbei lightly tugged at Yoshiharu's sleeve and said, "He escaped so fast... Looks like he had a plan or something."

"We've been saved, my lord!"

"Order us to pursue!"

"It's too dark, we can't pursue him."

We won! Maeda shouted out loud, but Yoshiharu had more important stuff to talk to Kanbei.

"Sending me back to the future, huh? Can that really be done?"

"It can be done, but for that, I will need three "tools". Though two of them are currently in the territories of the Oda clan, but the last is over at Mori clan's."

"In the hands of the Mori clan?"

"No, that "tool" is deep in the Straits of Shimonoseki, but if we can find it and successfully retrieve it, we will be able to send you back to the future."

"Have you said this to Nobuna?"

"No, I was stopped by Frois. I have not talked to anyone else yet."

"I see... It might be better this way for now, but if I become Nobuna's obstacle one day, we will have to consider the matter about sending me back."

"You're ok with going back, Sagara Yoshiharu?"

"I'm here to fulfill Nobuna's dream, so if it's for her, I...."

Yoshiharu tried his best to endure the complicated feelings gushing up his heart as he didn't notice the corner of his own eyes becoming moist.

Looking at him, even Kanbei who isn't skilled in interacting with people understands painfully Yoshiharu's true feelings.

Yoshiharu entered Kotsuki castle.

In the Honshu of Kotsuki castle, someone unexpected was waiting for Yoshiharu and Kanbei.

"Uhh, I allowed Yamanaka Shikanosuke to enter Kotsuki castle from the secret tunnel and launched a attack without orders, I'm so sorry, so sorry."

Correct, it's the currently lowering her head and apologizing Hanbei.

"It's Hanbei's plan!? I've been saved once again by you!"

"No, it's not my plan but just a coincidence. After Yoshiharu-san and Kanbei went out, Yamanaka Shikanosuke had sent an envoy hoping to fight together with the Oda clan. Such a thing should be decided by Nobuna-sama first actually."

"But you immediately agreed, right?"

"Yes, didn't Yoshiharu-san drew the "Moon" card? So I immediately agreed myself, Shikanosuke-san is a renowned hero praying for suffering from the moon."

"I'm ashamed, this time it's Simon's fault, just like what you Takenaka Hanbei said, a strategist like Simon had developed doubt that she shouldn't have."

"Nono, the reason why we could react so swiftly is because Kanbei, you discovered the secret tunnel." Hanbei smiled as she consoles Kanbei.

Looking at Hanbei pale smiling face, Yoshiharu tilted his head and thought, "When I was forced to a corner by Ukita Naoie, I seemed to have thought of some extremely important "event" about Hanbei... Ehh, why can't I recall it now?"

"But this is the best, cough cough."

"You seem to be in agony, are you ok, Hanbei-chan?"

"Hmmm, as long as I don't go onto the battlefield directly, there shouldn't be any problem. After Kanbei came, I can finally relax and don't need to exert myself too much."

Really? Yoshiharu patted lightly on the back of Hanbei who was coughing non-stop.

But suddenly, Hanbei "Ahh" and retreated to a side.

Looks like Sunekosuri had once again touched Hanbei's thighs.

"It....It's itchy, Yoshiharu-san. Please don't release Sunekosuri!"

"It's Sunekosuri who keeps escaping on it's own, I have nothing to do with it!"

"Uhh...Uhh, if that's the case, I can only endure. Ummm, can you please don't touch girls' embarrassing places?"

"Oioi, you know, right? I'm not the one doing it!?"

"I'm really sorry, those were meant for Sunekosuri. Making Yoshiharu sound like an incurable pervert, I'm really sorry, uhhh."

Ahhh, what a troublesome spirit! Yoshiharu feels he don't even have the strength to retort.

"I'm reintroducing myself, Yoshiharu-sama. I'm the old retainer from the Amako clan, Amako's heroes boss, Yamanaka Shikanosuke."

After taking off her crescent helm, this short haired princess knight bowed deeply, facing Yoshiharu.

She had sharp eyes.

Even Yoshiharu who had met her for the first time understands immediately just how skilled she is in battle.

"Oh, ohh! Thanks so much just now! Due to you, Kanbei and I are saved!"

"No, from now on, I'm Yoshiharu-sama's retainer. I'm just doing what a retainer should do."

What a beauty, her figure is perfect too and with that bravery willing to stand against many all by herself, she is a perfect talent I can't ask enough for the Sagara corps full of lolis! Yoshiharu is so touched that tears flooded his eyes.

"All this time, I have lead the Amako's heroes to fight against the Mori clan who destroyed my main clan."

"Ahh, ahhhh."

From such a close distance, he discovered she has a beauty unique to proper bishoujos as he becomes even more mesmerized.

"In the battlefield, I have won multiple times, the enemy commanders who I've cut down are countless!"

"Yo...You're strong! Your fighting intent is seeping out. "

"But the castles we claimed were always snatched back by the Mori clan. Before knowing, our rations were gone, the soldiers ran and even my comrades had betrayed me. "

"It must be the Mori clan using some sinister plan."

"It's at that moment that I heard Yoshiharu-sama had rushed over to Harima to fight with the Mori clan. From now on, please treat Shikanosuke as Yoshiharu-sama's slave and order me around harshly!"

"Ohhh, ah? Slave?"

"My wish is to defeat my sworn enemy, the Mori clan and restore the Amako clan. For this, I'm willing to accept whatever ordeals that will befall on me! Anything and everything, please order me around."

Yoshiharu is extremely touched.

Ahh, though from just outer appearance, she's the same type of girl like Katsuie. But in fact, she's totally different, not just strong but polite, even calling me " Yoshiharu-sama". Different from Juubei who is clueless about the atmosphere, she isn't just the precious bishoujo in the loli filled Sagara corps, she is the ONLY pure bishoujo in the whole of the Oda clan! If it's the future, such a girl will be the perfect candidate for the captain of the female volleyball club!

Ahh, such a girl is actually wanting to become my retainer, I'm so happy.

Though both Hanbei and Kanbei said unhappily, "He's drooling..." "This is this fellow's true nature." but he himself did not hear all that totally.

"Yoshiharu-sama, though the army of the Amako's heroes is only 2000, but all of them are strong, capable of fighting many to one."

"Ah, hmmm."

"From now on, I will address Yoshiharu-sama as " Master", no matter what you ask me to do, I will obey."

"Ma...Master!? Yo...You will really obey any orders, anything?"

Nono, I can't have weird imaginations!! Yoshiharu gave himself a slap.

"Yoshiharu-sama, you don't like a rural girl like me?"

"To me, you are very famous!"

"Really? Th....This is my honor."

Shikanosuke's face instantly blushed.

Sh...She's really a pure girl, totally different from the Owari girls. Girls from here are really attractive! Yoshiharu is so touched that he almost cried out.

Though he has no idea why is she praying for such an masochistic wish, but Yamanaka Shikanosuke is an extremely famous celebrity in the future 400 years ago for her prayers to the moon for suffering. Now, as a fan of the sengoku games, Yoshiharu can't feel happier than what he is feeling now.

"I'm so happy to be able to meet you, if I'm addressed by you as "Master", my heart will have problems! It's ok if you just call me normally as "My lord.""

"Ok, then I will address you as "Yoshiharu-sama" then. "

"Such a rare opportunity, please sign for me!"

"Sign? I'm a rural girl and have not much of any artistic exposure, I've no idea of this difficult Kyoto language. I'm really sorry, Yoshiharu-sama!"

"Ahh, sorry. What I said is a future language. It's ok if you just write "Suffering" on the colored paper."

"Actually, I'm only talking about this here. The thing about praying for suffering, I'm already thinking of giving up."

"Eh? Why?"

"After praying, suffering has really assaulting me by waves."

"Is it because you are still young and inexperienced?"

"My old master was eliminated and I can't win against the Mori clan at all. After being caught by them, I had to experience the tragic humiliation of escaping by asking to borrow their toilet so recently, I've started praying for "Unrelenting" to the moon."

"Though they sound the same, but they are totally different."

"Hmmm, but a thing like restricting oneself, I have already reflected deeply on it. To step into a new chapter of my life, I wish to change myself."

"Hmmm."

"But a happy life gained through that is too hypocritical, so I chose to give up in the end. Now, I've already changed this naive thinking to suffer even more, so I prayed to the moon for "Unrelenting Suffering""

"It mean the same, isn't it!? When are you going to release yourself from the agony!?"

"Through even more sufferings and ordeals, I can season my destiny even more and then, I can finally carve a new future!"

"You are too harsh on yourself, isn't it ok if you relax a little?"

"The more I sink in agony, the more my body warms up. Hah...Hah...."

"Why are you suddenly panting? Don't tell me Shikanosuke-chan is a M!?"

"Dou Ammu? I'm just a rural girl, I'm sorry for not knowing Kyoto's dialect."

"Ahh, ahhhh. I used future language without knowing again, don't mind it."

"From now on, I will work hard to learn the Kyoto dialect, please forgive this ignorant Shikanosuke, Yoshiharu-sama."

After finishing her words, Shikanosuke kneeled down.

"It's ok even if you don't kneel down. It's my fault for using future language."

From just her looks and the tone of her words, Shikanosuke gave off a dignified impression, but in actual fact, she's totally opposite. Ahh, it's ok for her to be a little dignified since she's a beauty and a renowned person. How I wish I can bring her to Nobuna and let her witness how a true bishoujo should act!
Shikanosuke-chan who suffered so much is so tragic.

"Lift your head, Shikanosuke-chan. In my corps, there isn't such a strong superior and subordinate relationship, everyone are friends."

Yoshiharu patted lightly on Shikanosuke's shoulders, and the latter blushed cutely and said, "Hmmm".

At this moment, sitting on Yoshiharu's side, Hanbei let out a small displeased sound and said to Shikanosuke.

"Umm, there's only one thing Shikanosuke has to take note. And that is to not go near Yoshiharu at all, or else things will definitely happen. No matter if it's to girls or Yoshiharu-san, they are all the manifestation of suffering. "

"It's like that, just like what Takenaka Hanbei said."

Kanbei immediately agreed with Hanbei.

"Why did you say that, even to a rural girl like me, Yoshiharu-sama did not put on airs, he's an extremely gentle lord."

"You think that way, huh? Then draw a tarot card to predict if you can successfully restore the Amako clan."

"Though I don't really understand but ok. It will be good if I can draw a card filled with suffering."

"Don't intentionally draw bad cards!"

With a "Please let me draw a card filled with suffering. .." Shikanosuke drew a card from the tarot pile of Kanbei.

And that card is....

"How is it, my destiny is that of suffering, right!?"

"Hmmm, this is the "Wheel of Destiny"."

"Wheel of Destiny"?"

"The time when you have to fight with your destiny will soon come. There's only one chance, once then, you must make the choice according to your own will."

"Really!? At that time, I will definitely choose a path filled with more suffering, without any hesitation! Ahh?"

Touchy touchy...

Touchy touchy...

Touchy touchy...

Squeeze squeeze squeeze.....

In the valley in between Shikanosuke's well endowed chest, a furry thing had ran in there and start touching her.

And at that moment, the only one sitting there mesmerized by Shikanosuke's side is Yoshiharu.

"Eh....Ehhh? Yoshiharu-sama, does this mean you want me to serve you tonight?"

"Ahh? What are you talking about?"

"Though it's our first meeting, but I will take this as an ordeal and try my best to accept it, this must be my fate!"

"Don't tell me, Sunekosuri again....!!!?"

"Though I've not been touched by guys till now, but since I'm already Yoshiharu-sama's slave, I will obey you . Please play with my body however you wish."

"It's not me! Look, both my hands are in the air! I'm innocent!"

"Umm, the moment when Yoshiharu-sama raise both of your hands, the strange feeling of someone touching my breasts had totally disappear."

"EHHHHHHHHHH!?"

"It must be because the warrior blood of Yoshiharu-sama is raging. Do you want to vent all that animalistic lust on a pure virgin like me tonight?"

Shikanosuke bites hard on her lips as she starts taking off her armor and stripped.

"Everyone, I'm going to suffer my biggest humiliation of being played repeatedly by Yoshiharu-sama and forced to bear his child, but to restore the Amako clan, please forgive me."

"It's ok if you don't strip.... No, please don't strip anymore!"

Yoshiharu does not know where he should put his eyes, though he tried his best to prevent Shikanosuke from stripping herself naked, but everytime he touched Shikanosuke, Sunekosuri will "This girl's well endowed and bouncy breasts are so nice to touch." and start to feel her all around. Yoshiharu can't do anything at all.

At this moment, Hanbei and Kanbei displayed a shockingly good chemistry between the both of them.

"Kanbei!"

"Sim!"

With an exchange of gaze and coordinated breathes, they tied Yoshiharu up and threw him to a corner.

"Uhh, to stop the rampaging Sunekosuri, we can only do this, let's leave him tied up like this for now, Kanbei."

"Sim. But even without Sunekosuri, something like this will definitely happen."

"Uhh, I had thought the biggest suffering in my life is going to happen, you're not doing it anymore?"

After dressing herself up again, for some reason, Shikanosuke's face was filled with regret.

I see. So Shikanosuke-chan had already reached a state where she will feel uneasy when she wasn't faced with misfortunate, what a pitiful girl.

Yoshiharu starts to pity Shikanosuke.

"But wait, don't tell me I'm going to be tied up like this the whole night!?"

"Sagara-shi, what strange game are you playing, something big happened!"

The ninja Goemon who didn't appear all this while in battle suddenly ran in a rush.

"The eastern Miki castle had been conquered by Ukita Naoie! Our retreat path had been cut off!"

"What!? That fellow had ran away just now at Kotsuki castle, when did he....!?"

"And there's another bad news, something happened in Kyoto!"

The instant Yoshiharu heard this, he gulped a mouth filled with cold air....

His heart starts to beat loudly, almost like it's threatening to jump out from his throat.

Don't tell me.....

Something happened in Kyoto....

No, it can't be.....?

No, it's impossible, it's far too early. That thing will never occur so early!

"The Incident at Honnouji", the conditions for that event to occur are:

Shibata Katsuie at Echizen.

Akechi Mitsuhide at Tamba.

Hashiba Hideyoshi attacking the Chuugoku's Mori clan.

Niwa Nagahide, Tsuda Nobusumi and Takigawa Kazumasu are all under their own orders and not by Nobunaga's side.

And so, with extremely few soldiers at his side, Nobunaga is in the situation where she is isolated in Kyoto....

And when Nobunaga is staying at Honnou temple defenselessly,

"That thing" happened.....

There is no point in saying whether it's early or late. Like what Kanbei said, the process isn't important, history will proceed towards a determined "result". As long as the conditions are fulfilled, "that thing" will happen. So even if Akechi Mitsuhide didn't revolt, Nobuna might still be assassinated by some hired assassin in the end. If that's the case, though Yoshiharu

had changed Mitsuhide's destiny, but he wasn't able to change Nobuna's destiny.

Those great heroes who left their name in history, their destiny does not belong to only themselves, but theirs will undoubtedly be intertwined by countless ordinary people. I'm too naive for thinking that I can use my own strength to change Nobuna's destiny if I just work hard enough!

Kanbei is the one that's correct!

Did I fail? In the end, did I not change Nobuna's destiny? Yoshiharu shivered and asked.

"Goemon, what exactly happened in Kyoto?"

"Not knowing who set it ablaze, most of the inner Kyoto are in ruins!"

FIRE!?

Don't tell me!?

Yoshiharu had forgotten to breathe.

No, he can't breathe anymore.

He tried his best to utter out with the last of his voice.

"That Nobuna, at that time, where is she, Goemon!?"

She won't say that Nobuna is in Honnou temple, right?

Because of his nerves and fear, Yoshiharu didn't just forget to breathe, he had even lost the ability to think.

The world surrounding him starts to darken.

"At Honnou temple....."

Goemon's voice suddenly feels far far away....

".....surrounded by flames..... She....."

AHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!

Sagara Yoshiharu collapsed.

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Chapter 5 : The Future Meeting

"Uhh, don't jump to conclusions, Yoshiharu-san. Please calm down."

"What's up with you, Sagara Yoshiharu? To start panicking after such a small thing, I'm really start to doubt if you are the one who requested to lead the suicide squad at Kanegasaki..."

"Our army is currently in a very bad shape, Yoshiharu-sama. Our eastern Miki castle has not just been conquered with Ukita Naoie's wits, there is even a 10000 strong Ukita army pitching camp at the northern Mount Shosha. They have completed their surround, please abandon I Shikanosuke and order me to strike at the frontlines!"

"Don't just start fainting before hearing what others are saying."

When Yoshiharu finally opened his eyes again, he found himself lying in the room of Himeji castle.

On his side, Hanbei, Kanbei, Shikanosuke and Goemon were all looking at him worryingly.

(Was it just a nightmare just now? Because I'm too worried about Nobuna being at Honnouji that I had such a scary dream?)

Bham!

After being knocked on the head by Kanbei did Yoshiharu finally understand the situation.

"Ouch, this is real!? No...Nobuna.... Who killed Nobuna in Honnou Temple?"

"Sagara-shi? Hime-sama isn't dead, why did you suddenly start mumbling and get panicked all by yourself?"

"Eh?"

"Uhh, what Goemon said at Kotsuki castle is " Hime-sama who was supposed to be drinking tea at Honnou temple breathed in thick smoke and fainted while commanding the fire disposal team, but there isn't anything life threatening.""

"Because of her stutter, the crucial parts were not heard properly."

"I'm so sorry for stuttering, but all in all, Hime-sama is safe."

"Nobuna is safe! Th...That's great!"

Finally, Yoshiharu calmed down, but soon after that, tears starts to flow down uncontrollably.

"Everyone, why did Yoshiharu suddenly burst into tears? I can't understand this at all."

"To think that Yoshiharu-sama worries so much for his master, he's really a model for retainers."

"It's not totally like what you said, Shikanosuke-chan."

Sitting up, Yoshiharu repeatedly let out breathes of relief as he wanted to regain his composure. At his side, Hanbei silently touched his head.

"Sagara Yoshiharu, I already know the reason why Ukita Naoie claimed Miki castle. The problem is with the master's wife. Not knowing when, the master's wife who had surrendered herself to him actively gave the castle over, not unlike that of Kotsuki castle."

"So that's how he did it, he planted the same bomb at different points of Harima."

"Uhh, the pitiful Bisho-sama had already brought along his little sister and escaped over to Himeji castle."

"But after they were defeated at Kotsuki castle, the Ukita army rapidly gathered again and started heading towards Himeji castle."

Seems like they are targeting Himeji castle which is currently weak in defenses.

"But Kanbei immediately saw through the opponent's intention and rushed back a step ahead of him and so, the Ukita army captured the nearby Mount Shosha as their base and Kotsuki castle has once again been snatched away by him. We are now stuck, uhh."

"Yoshiharu-sama, Mt Shozan is a Buddhist holy mountain known as "The western Mount Hiei", to think that Ukita Naoie actually chased all the monks down from the mountain, it's too much. Please order me to attack them!"

"Many things happened during the period when you lost consciousness, please don't start fainting like this next time."

"Ahh, I'm really sorry." Yoshiharu honestly apologized to Kanbei.

But Yoshiharu himself understands that he won't recover so quickly this time.

The impact is just too enormous.

Though it's just a false alarm, but with the territories of the Oda clan being expanded like in the history, the people that were fighting together with her during the days of Owari and Mino were all seperated from Nobuna's side. Right now, the "Incident at Honnouji" will likely happened anytime.

Wanting to avoid this event successfully, just my strength alone is far too difficult. Due to Imagawa Yoshimoto being alive, the Ashiaga Yoshiaki who was supposed to be out has once again returned. Right now, the Incident at Honnouji may happen anytime, but Nobuna had forbidden me to tell her anything about the future, just what should I do.....

"Yoshiharu-san, if there's anything troubling you, please do not bear it alone and discuss it with Hanbei."

"Sagara Yoshiharu, after hearing "Honnou temple", you immediately panicked. Is that related to the future you know? Simon believes that Oda Nobuna will definitely be able to unify the world in the end, but looks like the future.... the history you know isn't like that, correct?"

"Uhh, aren't we comrades, Yoshiharu-san? Please allow us to share the pain."

"I understand, please tell me what happened in Kyoto for now."

Yoshiharu finally made up his mind.

There's still time now, though I might give lots of trouble to Hanbei-chan and the rest, but like what Kanbei said, just a person alone won't be able to avoid the " Incident at Honnouji".....

Just what happened in Kyoto?

During the Heian era, Kyoto was separated into 2 parts and were called, Sakyo and Ukyo.

But Ukyo which was situated in the moist areas was soon abandoned due to it's unsuitability for living, with Sakyo flourishing alone.

But during the Sengoku era, Sakyo was once again separated into the Northern Kamigyo and Southern Shimogyo and starts developing in their separate ways.

Kamigyo, where the palace and the castle that Imagawa Yoshimoto lives, the Nijou castle is located is the place where the elite and rich merchants live.

And the Honnou temple that Nobuna stays in and Myokaku temple that Yoshiharu stays in, the Shimogyo are where the commoners live.

Those nobles and elites who gathered at Kamigyo do not wish to give up their benefits and despised Nobuna who had promoted the opening of the free market and abolishing of taxes.

And the new merchants who came from all corners of the country and had gathered in Shimogyo had fully supported Hime-sama who keeps abolishing old traditions.

Under the unrelenting hard work of Nobuna, these new merchants are slowly having more freedom in trading but in contrast, the nobles of Kamigyo is slowly losing the benefits they had previously.

Ever since Asakura Yoshikage who had always supported such benefits of the nobles had been eliminated by Nobuna, the nobles of Kamigyo were in a state of panic.

Among the nobles, a rumor like this was spreading.

The commoners of Shimogyo who welcomed Nobuna as the leader of men had already started to attack Kamigyo.

And the one inciting them into it was none other than the demon lord of the sixth realm, Oda Nobuna herself.

After assigning Yoshiharu as the commander in chief for the invasion of the Chuugoku region, Nobuna who hadn't rest at all had returned straight to Kyoto's Honnou

temple from Azuchi castle and was immensely troubled by this.

"Why must I start burning Kamigyo!? Though I'm quite happy in seeing those annoying fellows of Kamigyo being burnt, but won't that incurred huge amounts of repair fees!?"

Though Nobuna had said such easily misunderstood words with disdain, but after winning a battle, instead of her ratings going up, the fact that they had gone down had given her quite an impact.

At that night,

Nobuna was drinking grape wine with Sen no Rikyuu in the tea room.

As per usual, Rikyuu was wearing her trademark black gothic lolita attire and her expressionless face as she prepares her unique tea ceremony that was infused with namban alchemy.

After destroying the Asai Asakura clan and the golden skulls incident, Nobuna's mother had since cut off all ties with her. And right after that, Sagara Yoshiharu had done such a thing in front of her and with the comrades

who had been with her since Owari not around her, the Nobuna now is filled with all kinds of troubles.

But the one who is giving her the most painful of headaches is Ashikaga Yoshiaki.

Under the assault of Matsunaga Hisahide, the Ashikaga shogun who had been utterly destroyed had once again returned like an evil spirit. Even Nobuna did not expect this at all.

"Rikyuu, how should I go about handling the matter of Ashikaga Yoshiaki?"

"..."

"Those fellows at Kamigyo all wants to chase Imagawa Yoshimoto out from Nijou castle and take Ashikaga Yoshiaki back to Kyoto. They are all against my policies, what a bunch of fellows who aren't willing to give up their benefits."

"(Tonight, Kamigyo's merchants employed vagrants to make a mess around Nijou castle.}"

"It seems to be so every night recently, but the mental strength of Imagawa Yoshimoto is abnormally strong,

how can she not mind it at all when she's being despised so much."

"(Rather than her mental strength, it's more of her being slow on the uptake.)"

"Hehe, even if Rikyuu says she's slow, but there are times when one has to be like that to move forward. Sorry, without noticing I've started to miss the days when Inuchiyo was my aide."

"..."

"But it's ok, I have employed many smart aides in Kyoto."

Rikyuu silently cautioned Nobuna, "(It's better to employ aides from Owari and Mino who are more trustworthy, a place like Kyoto is too easy for unknown people to mix in.)"

"You have a point, but there are just too few people in Owari and Mino that have enough upbringing to communicate with the palace and nobles."

"(Though it might be as you say, but the danger of employing someone from Kyoto is just too high.)"

"There isn't much time, I must now rush to Harima immediately. That tiny amount of soldiers that Saru has is totally not enough with the full force of the Mori clan, I heard the daimyos of Harima are bullying Saru and not giving him any manpower."

"(To persuade the daimyos of Harima, we need at least 20k of "soldiers for show")"

Nobuna sighed and said, "What's with me? Why was I so restless then? It seems like I just can't calm down when it comes to Saru."

"(That's the proof that your heart is with him. A person's heart is extremely mysterious, the deeper the love, the harder it is to remain calm.)"

Rikyuu use her own methods to console the anxious Nobuna.

Though Rikyuu didn't say anything, but she has the skill to communicate with others without the need for conversation.

"It's far too rash to ask Saru who is just ruling over Nagahama to face the Mori clan with so little manpower.

But right now, Riku, Manchiyo and Juubei have their own work on their hands and can't help, I'm the only one who can go to Harima personally."

"?"

Rikyuu seems to feel something and looked at the small window in the tea room.

"Why? It's not like you to be so panicky."

"!"

"Eh? A fire?"

"!"

"It's true! Damn, it's at the direction of Kamigyo and the palace!"

"..."

"The wind is strong tonight, if this goes on, it's going to be much worse!"

We need to put out the fire! Nobuna stood up immediately.

"..."

"If we leave it alone, the palace and the Kamigyo will be reduce to ashes. We need to find the origin of the fire and destroy all the surrounding buildings to prevent the fire from spreading!"

Nobuna rushed out of the tea room and shouted, "Give me a horse!!" and set out.

The soldiers that were gradually gathered can only try their best chasing after her

"Kamigyo is on fire! If this goes on.... Anyway, we need to put out the fire!"

In this era, there's only one way to stop the spreading of the fire-Destroying all surrounding buildings

While evacuating the residents, Nobuna and her soldiers destroy the buildings according to this method.

But while the merchants of Kamigyo were fleeing to the shrine that the soldiers were protecting, they were saying.

"This is the fire that Oda Nobuna set ablaze herself."

"To reduce the whole of Kamigyo who oppose her to ashes."

"Yeah, the timing is just too perfect."

"Being asked by the commoners of Shimogyo "Burn all of the enemy merchants in Kamigyo" and even taking the money from them..."

As they all keep talking about "Nobuna's conspiracy".

In the midst of fighting the fire, Nobuna did not notice that she had fallen into the trap at all.

And there's an evil shadow mixed in this conspiracy that Nobuna can't even imagine.

"It's too strange, the fire does not seem to have weakened at all! Just what is going on!?"

Though Nobuna and the soldiers rest tried their best, but the fire still mercilessly spread towards the whole of Kamigyo.

"That is...!?"

We must protect at least the palace!! For that, everyone are to retreat to the last line of defense.

At this time, from the midst of the flames, high as the sky, Nobuna saw a black shadow.

"What's that!?"

It's a ghost.

On the black shadow's head was a sharp horn, it's hands, no, claws seems to be able to pierce through anything.

It readies itself for a lunge.

The black shadow amidst the fire seems to be a living creature as it seems ready to lunge.

Nobuna can't help but shout, "How can this be possible, a creature like this shouldn't exist in this era!!"

The ghost turned over, and their gaze crossed.

Near Nobuna's ears, she can almost hear a howl filled with grudges.

"I'm... burning."

"Burn to ashes amidst the flames of hell, haha, hahahaha!"

This is a laughter that a human is definitely not able to let out!

Grudges.... ghosts and demons.... Why are things from the ancient era appearing in front of me?

There isn't time now to fight with such a thing, if we don't end this sengoku era fast and strengthen Japan, this country will be colonised by the namban countries.....

The shadows of the ancient era, hurry and scram back to the era of the past. To me, a cursed spirit binded by this era isn't needed in this era, what it needs is the future, someone that can push this country towards the future. Correct, it's him who has come from the future.....

"Hahahaha! A lass like the flowers, scatter within my grudges!"

After being surrounded by the miasma spread by the ghost, Nobuna's consciousness started to blur.

Before falling from the horse and losing her consciousness, Nobuna thought.

(What the hell is this? Why did it curse me? Save me, Yoshiharu...)

On that night, no one but Nobuna saw the ghost.

Everyone thought that the princess had breathed in thick smoke and fainted. And so, they had carefully brought Nobuna back to Honnou temple.

But, Nobuna who was invaded by the miasma did not wake up again.

Himeji castle,

Knowing that Nobuna's life isn't in danger, Yoshiharu sent Yamanaka Shikanosuke away, leaving only Takenaka Hanbei, Kuroda Kanbei and Hachisuka Goemon the three of them as they started a secret meeting.

Though Shikanosuke who was being sent away was weeping, "So you can't trust someone new like me with the important things yet, huh? Yoshiharu-sama... Ahh, what a suffering...", but Yoshiharu insists.

The meeting is prepared by Kanbei's father Souen in the small tea room.

"Goemon is nowhere to be seen."

"I'm at the ceiling, don't mind me."

"Yamanaka Shikanosuke is just too pitiful, Yoshiharu-san. Is it really ok to not call her over?"

"Yeah, because if the actual person involved is here listening, there will be the opposite of what I want."

"Aren't we talking about Oda Nobuna's future, Sagara Yoshiharu? Is it related to Yamanaka Shikanosuke?"

"During the period when I was being mistaken about Nobuna, I suddenly thought of Shikanosuke-chan's future. The things that I'm going to talk about from now are very important, please listen to me seriously."

Yoshiharu lowered down his volume.

"The reason why I'm able to know of the future, you guys should know, right? Those knowledge are from the game by sengoku SLG's greatest work, "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou"."

"I have always wanted to ask, what's this "Geimu"?"

"This so called "Geimu", is it a history book like that of "The Tale of the Heike"? Cough cough"

"Though "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou" had recorded many people and stories of the sengoku era, but it's different from a history book, for example..."

Yoshiharu picked up a chess piece.

"First, a certain incident happened, in the future language, we call it "event""

Saying this, Yoshiharu set the chess piece on the ground.

"Mmm"

"Hmm, this chess piece is an incident?"

"Next, the second incident happened, and the third, the fourth..."

Saying all that, Yoshiharu arrange the chess pieces into a row.

"To record these incidents from the start to the end in chronological order is called a story, simply said, it's a path with no other paths branching out of it."

"Yes, stories are all about the order, it's uncommon to see a situation where the story continues without an order."

"You are trying to say cause and effect, Sagara Yoshiharu. Take "The Tale of the Heike" for example, due to the flourishing of the Minamoto clan, the Heike clan slowly declined and finally perished. In this story, countless incidents interwined together one after the other to enact into the ending. So what is it you want to say?"

Yoshiharu scattered the chess pieces to different parts of the floor and said.

"In the world of the game, different events are separated in a mess like these chess pieces, and not like a straight line like in the story."

"What do you mean, Yoshiharu-san?"

"Take for example, for an incident to happen, various conditions are needed, the second incident is the same too. No matter how you choose to act, as long as the various conditions are met, a new incident will happen. What that creates the world of the game isn't a big path but countless paths."

Kanbei snorted.

"Isn't this what Simon told you about the way history pushes forward? No matter what you Sagara Yoshiharu do to force a change of the direction of history, nothing will change in the end, this is what Simon taught you!"

"Mmm, till now, I always thought that I could change history as long as I made a different choice. But when Ashikaga Yoshiaki who was supposed to be eliminated appeared, I rejected such a naive thought. Like what Kanbei said, this world isn't in a straight line, even if we temporaily change the direction it is going, once the

conditions are met, the incidents in history will happen again in another way and in the end, it will reach the end that I know of. Just like this, this world is proceeding in the way it is determined."

"Different from the world of "Geimu", countless people have created this world with their own will."

"Yes it is, Kanbei. But just from the structure, the events of the real world and game are extremely similar. Till now, I have always wanted to change the direction of the incidents, but right now, I understand. To prevent an incident from happening, the most important thing is to not let the conditions be fulfilled!"

Hanbei lowered her head as she sneak a look at Yoshiharu and asked.

"Uhh, Yoshiharu-san, you said that this future that " can not be changed" can actually be changed. From this, can I defer that our future will proceed in a bad direction ?"

Yoshiharu nodded.

"As for Shikanosuke-chan, in "Oda Nobunaga no Yabou", the incidents that has Shikanosuke-chan has a

total of three. The first is her determination like the monks' Sokushinbutsu, the "Praying to the moon for suffering.", the second is "Yamanaka Shikanosuke's servitude to the Oda clan". These two events have all happened, but the last event is named, "Death of Yamanaka Shikanosuke.""

"Yoshiharu-san."

"This is quite a detestable "evento""

Due to his nerves, Yoshiharu's voice starts to tremble.

The responsibility of saying the unforunate future of his comrades, the uneasiness, different kinds of emotions are holding sway of Yoshiharu's heart.

But Yoshiharu had already decided to take a step forward.

"In the history that I know, Shikanosuke-chan did not restore the Amago clan, after being defeated by the Mori clan and captured once again, she was assassinated during the time she was captured and sent back. To the end, she had held onto her loyalty and righteousness."

"As long as princess knights were to become nuns, won't their lives be spared?"

"According to Shikanosuke-chan's character, she will never become a nun to live on. It's because of this tragedy of Shikanosuke-chan that the people of 400 years later still remember her as a hero."

"How can this be" Hanbei let out a lament and become silent. But Kanbei instead let out a laugh and said, "As long as Simon is here, there's no need to worry. If we win , such a thing won't happen."

"Even if the commander in chief is the unreliable Sagara Yoshiharu who will start fainting due to trivial things, as long as Simon and Takenaka Hanbei are here, a thing like losing will never happen."

"But it is the fact, now that Shikanosuke-chan serves under the Oda clan, it's no longer impossible that the third event will happen anytime."

"Cough, according to Yoshiharu-san's theory, there must be conditions for the third incident too, as long as we know the conditions, there must be some ways we can avoid it."

"I'm sorry, I just can't recall the required conditions, I was supposed to even be able to write the walkthrough too."

"So only Shikanosuke-chan lost, the Sagara corps did not receive any damage?"

"Yeah, so from now on, we must try our best to move together with Shikanosuke-chan, and definitely not let the Amago heroes be at the frontlines on their own."

"Sim, I understand, then without any delay, let's tell this to Shikanosuke."

"Wait, Kanbei! If this is known by Shikanosuke-chan, she will definitely say, "I will never let everyone bear with me the fate of suffering" and will charge ahead alone, hoping to die!"

"Exactly Kanbei. Shikanosuke's sense of responsibility will often make her overexert herself. If she knows of this incident, she will definitely think, "Since my fate is to die in the battlefield with regret, then before I drag Yoshiharu-sama into my cursed fate, I should just charge forwards gallantly and bear this fate myself.""

"Hmmm, what a strange person."

Yoshiharu continued to proceed with the meeting.

"Though I have always thought I could change the history by myself, but from now on, the help of comrades is definitely necessary. If I were to change the history by choosing a different path, I can do something even if it's me alone. But to avoid a certain incident, just a person's strength is far from enough, the return of Ashikaga Yoshiaki to Japan made me understand that."

"Hmmm, leave it to Simon then."

"Though I'm not very useful, but I will try my best, cough."

"I do not mind even if the legend of Yamanaka Shikanosuke is not spread to 400 years later. What I want her to do more is to live on as a girl and help her realize the wish of restoring the Amago clan. Isn't the Amago clan descended from the Izumo daimyo, there won't be any clash with Nobuna's quest of Tenka Fubu, will there? "

Still the same, wanting everything and not willing to give anything up... From the ceiling, exasperated mumbling of Goemon can be heard.

"From now on is the most important part. It's because this is an extremely extremely important matter, so please do not reveal this to anyone else. If there's a chance, we will increase the comrades who know of this secret."

"The most important part is...?"

"Nobuna-sama's future, cough cough."

"Yes, if I tell Nobuna herself, my head will definitely roll. So, I had promised her to never tell her anything. Now that I can't rely on just my strength alone to stop the tragedy of history, I can only shamelessly plead to you guys for help. Please, please help me."

Hanbei and Kanbei looked at each other at the same time.

The always energetic, optimistic and cheerful Yoshiharu who will rush into any sort of hopeless situation with a smile, for him to reveal such a weak expression is the first.

He is afraid of something, extremely afraid.

Hanbei smiled and held onto Yoshiharu's trembling hand.

"Yoshiharu-san, when I decided to help you, I had already placed my life in the hands of Nobuna-sama and you. So please don't be scared, I will always be by your side no matter when."

"Thanks, Hanbei-chan."

"Since with Simon around, any problem will be easily solved, so just say it out now."

Suppressing the uneasiness in his heart, Yoshiharu said the future waiting for Nobuna.

From the analysis of the return of Ashikaga Yoshiaki and the trajectory of history that Kanbei said, Yoshiharu who had always beared everything by himself

understands the logic of "Just the strength of he himself isn't enough."

Even if he keeps choosing a different path, history will still return back to the original ending point in the end.

Different from stories, as long as the needed conditions are gathered, the fated incident will happen.

This is because history is jointly created by countless people's will.

From the time she was born, Oda Nobuna's fate had been tied togther with this country's fate.... no, with the world's fate. A huge "power" that Yoshiharu cannot stop by himself is pushing her towards the ending point of " Incident at Honnouji", but all these, he wasn't able to tell Nobuna.

Right now, the help of comrades that he can trust are definitely necessary.

With such a determination, Yoshiharu revealed everything to them.

And the words that he said caused the elites Hanbei and Kanbei, even the ninja who had always been able to remain calm, Goemon to turn pale.

"Nobuna wasn't able to unify the world. Just when she was about to fulfill her wish of Tenka Fubu, she was betrayed by her retainer and ended her life in the flames of Honnou temple."

After that, he seems to have said something else, but Yoshiharu can't remember at all.

Ever since being lost in the sengoku era and bearing this huge burden all by himself, explosive emotions caused his tears to flow down uncontrollably.

"Revolt? How can that be, that person should know that with that, we won't be able to catch up with the progress of the namban countries and what ending it will bring us! Just who is the one who revolted!?"

During the midst of his daze, Kanbei seems to have shout several times, "Just who is the one who revolted!?"

But just this, Yoshiharu will never say it out.

How can he say of a revolt that has not happened yet.

"I still don't know if the one that I know of will revolt right now! And according to Kanbei's theory, as long as the end is the same, the one revolting can possibly be anyone! It's also possible that it might not be a retainer but some unknown assassin!"

Shouting like this, Yoshiharu swallowed the name Akechi Mitsuhide deep into his gut.

Only the fact that Mitsuhide is the mastermind behind the "Incident at Honnouji", Yoshiharu will never agree with. If it's the her that he knows about, it will never be possible! There must be something wrong about it, maybe Mitsuhide who was defeated was given the crime of being the mastermind, a case of framing someone. The more he mixed around with this girl Mitsuhide, the more he understands her character, the more Yoshiharu is unwilling to believe that she is able to do such a thing.

From the ancient times, the winner takes all, the history books are all about the glorious history of winners.

Even if Mitsuhide is the mastermind, and under the judgment of Yoshiharu, he had forced himself to make

her disappear from the stage of history, there will definitely be someone else who will cause the "Incident at Honnouji".

The criminal is just a chess piece that can be easily replaced.

Even if all of the Oda clan retainers are eliminated, the suspects are too many to count.

As a revolutionist, the divide between Oda Nobuna and the traditionalists will never disappear. It's never easy to change the world, those unwilling to give up their benefits will definitely organize themselves to oppose her and Ashikaga Yoshiaki is the symbol most worthy for their act of opposition. Though we have supported Imagawa Yoshimoto as the new shogun, but as expected, we are unable to remove the existence of Ashikaga Yoshiaki.

The life of Oda Nobunaga is to keep fighting, wanting to guide Japan from it's ancient traditions, but in the end, he wasn't able to win against the traditionalists.

After Oda Nobunaga was defeated, Japan did not enter the navigation era.

As Nobunaga's successor, after failing in a war, Toyotomi Hideyoshi hated the foreign missionaries and soon, isolated Japan from the world.

Though after Hideyoshi's death, the Tokugawa clan who started the Edo shogunate isn't so opposed to overseas culture and had been into foreign commerce, they had opened up many trading ports along southeast Asia.

But after Ieyasu passed away, the Edo shogunate chose to lock down their country and their suppression of Christianity started to become more violent. From then on, Japan went into a long nightmare, devoid of any contact with the world.

Though after they had gone through many ordeals and finally bucked up, but Yoshiharu wants to see the other possibility of another world. Take a look at the Japan that did not go through the lockdown of the Edo shogunate, going along with Oda "Nobuna" into the wide world for all sorts of adventures, a totally different future....

So, it's not important who is the criminal.

The future that the flow of history is flowing towards to isn't the Tenka Fubu that Nobuna, Yoshiharu and

Kanbei had hoped, but to the actual Incident at Honnouji ....

This is the most important thing.

Yoshiharu bowed down deeply towards Hanbei and the rest.

Instead, Hanbei gently touched his head and responded.

"Though Yoshiharu-san has always maintained that cheerful smile, but within that smile, there seems to be an unspeakable pain. That pain isn't about yourself, but for the others. Now, it seems like that pain is for the future of Nobuna-sama, right?"

Yoshiharu nodded silently.

Hearing Hanbei's gentle voice, he feels like sobbing out loud.

But after bearing so much pain and saying everything out, what man is he if he starts crying.

Yoshiharu tried his best to endure as he sits up straight .

"I... am alive to fulfill Yoshiharu-san's dream, please do not bear such a heavy burden by yourself. Hanbei will protect both Yoshiharu-san and Nobuna-sama, even if Hanbei herself isn't enough, we have the greatest elite, Kanbei with us right now."

The smile on Hanbei's face now is totally not that of anything he has seen in the world, if the "Angel" that Frois speaks of really exists, that will definitely be Hanbei who is currently smiling. Looking at her clear smile, Yoshiharu suddenly had a bad premonition, but he might just be thinking too much as he held Hanbei's hand and said "Thanks.".

"What do you plan to do, Yoshiharu-san? If we can't avoid it, how about we let Nobuna-sama "die" in Honnou temple, and then, under the protection of Yoshiharu-san, she begins her second life...."

The way that Nobuna used on Asai Nagamasa who had to "die" no matter what is applicable on herself too, what Hanbei is trying to express is this.

But Yoshiharu said, "Impossible." and shook his head.

"That fellow won't be able to abandon her own dream. If she really abandoned it, than she will no longer be Oda Nobuna, even if it's for the soldiers that have died on the battlefield, she will never give up on the fate of "Oda Nobuna", she will never do that even if she dies. That's just how she is."

"Yes, Nobuna-sama bears the fate of Japan, totally different from other daimyos."

The importance in history of Asai Nagamasa and Oda Nobuna is totally different, there's just too much difference. Oda Nobuna isn't just a daimyo of the sengoku era, her existence cannot be replaced, after being reminded by Yoshiharu, Hanbei noticed this.

"As long as she's alive, that fellow will continue to be Oda Nobuna no matter how much it hurts, and I who have come from the future will not be able to replace her, I must clarify this first."

"I never thought Yoshiharu-san had considered so much, you have been trying your best all by yourself all this while, the Yoshiharu-san who has been enduring all this while is just remarkable, uhh."

"This is all thanks to Hanbei-chan and you guys, but from now on, Hanbei-chan will be dragged into this battle with the future too."

"Hmmm, do drag me in. To use all my intellect for Yoshiharu-san is the reason for my existence. Just the fact that Yoshiharu-san is able to share all his secrets with me, though it's not tactful, but Hanbei is extremely happy now."

(So that's it.) Kanbei who finally cleared her mind looked at the side of Yoshiharu's face in a daze.

The theory that she had once held, "Along the path of Oda Nobuna unification of the world, Sagara Yoshiharu is a huge obstacle." is definitely wrong, but...

(To actually die in the hands of her own retainer just before she unifies the world....)

This fate is just too sad.

It's far too difficult for Kanbei who had been optimistic all her life to predict such a future.

But after actually thinking about it, she herself who had not done anything can no longer stays at Harima,

how can Oda Nobuna who has been fighting with the corrupted traditions all this while stay in this country?

(So what the "Tower" hints is this sad fate of Oda Nobuna, the "Tower" drawn on that card means the Honnou temple. There, Oda Nobuna will lose both the dream of Tenka Fubu and Sagara Yoshiharu.)

Even if I can change it, I'm afraid I can only save one of them. To let Oda Nobuna fulfill her dream of Tenka Fubu and having Sagara Yoshiharu is too difficult.

This point, should I tell Sagara Yoshiharu right now?

No, though it might be better if I say it out, but I should hold it in for now.

For a long time, Kanbei had been living in her own world, even the job of a strategist that deals with human relations, she had thought that it can be done with just intelligence. But right now, she understands that that is not enough at all, a true strategist must first be able to understand the hearts of other people.

At the same time she realizes this, she starts to slowly understand Takenaka Hanbei's intentions.

(Maybe, Takenaka Hanbei had long since know of her fate, that card.... Since she already knows, how can she be so calm? Does she wants to be by Sagara Yoshiharu's side till the last moment? Not asking for any reward.....)

Is this the true strategist, Kanbei can't help but ponder.

Since I already know of Oda Nobuna's future, I must start understanding Hanbei's future ASAP. I must still be able to do something right now, I can definitely change it . Kanbei decided in her heart.

But Yoshiharu's burden is already heavy enough, she can't continue adding onto it.

"Cough, Sagara Yoshiharu. It's true that Simon said the future cannot be changed, but what Simon is saying that a dumb fellow like you will never be able to change it, if it's an intelligent elite like Simon, a thing like changing the future is nothing to be afraid of."

"Oioi, this is totally different from what you said, Kanbei!"

"If you are so depressed because of Simon, I apologize now."

"Ah, its ok if you don't apologize, it's all thanks to Kanbei that I noticed that I can never change the future with just my strength!"

"Ahh"

While saying "Thanks", Yoshiharu touched Kanbei's head.

"Do....Don't touch me!"

Kanbei launched a punch right at Yoshiharu's nose.

"Ouch! You aren't cute at all!! Learn from Hanbei-chan a little!"

"I refuse, Kanbei does not need to learn from Takenaka Hanbei, I will one day surpass her!"

"Uhh, you guys are like brother and sister."

"Really?"

"That's too rude, how can Simon be like the little sister of this Sagara Yoshiharu!?"

Kanbei puffed out her cheeks, turned her face away and mumbled softly, (This is to repay for his gratitude, he's the one who protected Simon in front of all the Harima daimyos by himself.), but since she's being too soft, Yoshiharu did not hear it at all.

"I'm really sorry for being depressed! From now on, I'm going to work hard!"

"Sagara Yoshiharu, let's put the matter about the future aside and consider our current situation, Ukita Naoie has surrounded us and we are now unable to retreat."

"Exactly, Nobuna-sama is now sick in bed, the reinforcements won't be coming, uhhh."

"What's there to fear about Ukita Naoie, we have the renowned two "bei"s as comrades right here!"

"So Goemon isn't your comrade now? Guuu."

Gosh, I've forgotten there's another person on the ceiling.

"Ah, no. It's because you hide too well that I had forgotten about your existence, hurry and come down."

"If Sunekosuri wakes up, it will be too dangerous, I will just stay in the ceiling."

"Sunekosuri is sleeping sweetly now, look. Come down."

"If that's the case, ok then."

But the four of them within the tea room didn't notice there's another one outside.

".....Ara ara, my master is just overexerting herself, she knows that she don't have much time left."

Yes, it's Zenki.

Even if it's his master Hanbei, no one expected that Zenki who was patrolling within the castle had overheard about their future meeting.

Zenki who had been maintaining a certain distance with the world of humans is also concerned about the affairs of the human world.

"It should be extremely difficult to save Yamanaka Shikanosuke in such a situation, the Sagara corps has been cut off from their retreat path and is in danger. And there is an even larger tragedy waiting for them, how troublesome..."

Oda Nobuna wasn't able to unify the world and was betrayed right before her dream was fulfilled.

Such a tragedy had occurred in the past?

It's a long long time ago, when he was still a human, there wasn't such a tragedy even in that era.

"Even the fate of Shikanosuke is considered small."

Sagara Yoshiharu is a guy who wishes to have everything and is not willing to give up even at the last moment.

How naive he is...

But what that touched Hanbei's heart is this indescribable naivety.

Zenki sighed deeply and said with a bitter smile.

"Looks like it's time for me to be the bad guy."

On the plains east of Himeji castle, there was a river named Yumesaki.

From this river that flows down from the peaks of Mt Shozan, one can gaze upon the base of Ukita Naoie.

After the end of the future meeting,

Kanbei called Hanbei alone to join her for a stroll along Yumesaki river.

"When Simon was still small and known as Kanbei, I always played here, things like catching kappas or drifting along with the river, always being scolded by Chichiue."

"Harima is a really good place. The mountains, rivers and seas are all so beautiful. Why must people choose to fight wars in such a beautiful place?"

Hanbei's complexion looks better.

But Kanbei who had learnt Omyoudou too understands instead the "ki" in that small body of hers is becoming even weaker.

"Takenaka Hanbei, the time at Nagahama castle, when I did the divination for health for you...."

"Now that you mention it, you did not show me, right? "

"The one you drew was this."

Saying that, Kanbei passed Hanbei a card.

From just a look, even Hanbei who isn't familiar with namban culture instantly understands what it meant.

"This is "Death", you can't live much longer."

"I've been exposed, seems like I just can't hide it from Kanbei... Hehe."

Once again, a clear smile was on Hanbei's face.

Looking at her smile, Kanbei can't help but shouted, " Why aren't you treating this as a big matter!?"

"With such a talent yet you have to die so young, can you really accept such a fate!? Why didn't you search for a way you can continue to live on?"

"The flow of history cannot be changed, this is what Kanbei said too, right"

"Even if you can't do it by yourself, but with all of us, there will definitely be a way! Do you know just what Oda Nobuna and Sagara Yoshiharu's future will become if you die!?"

"It's ok now, after Kanbei came, some parts of Yoshiharu-san's heart will definitely have a premonition, even if I collapse, it's ok since Kanbei is around."

"That fellow?"

"Yoshiharu-san adores this era, so he must have definitely heard something about Takenaka Hanbei in the future, no, maybe the trivial stuff that I did wasn't passed down through the ages, but Yoshiharu-san definitely knows about Kanbei's future."

"When the Ukita army was surrounding us at Kotsuki castle, that fellow did say, "In the history that I know of, Kuroda Kanbei will be the best strategist in the world from now on." and I felt weird about it. With Takenaka Hanbei alive, how can Simon be the best, the most I can be is a substitute."

"Yoshiharu-san must have felt something wrong too, but his character is just too optimistic and cheerful."

"With just Oda Nobuna alone, he is already near collapsing, he won't be able to bear your fate too."

"Mmm, this has already exceeded what humans can withstand. To girls, especially the princess knights of the sengoku era, Yoshiharu-san just loves them too much."

"Previously, when he suddenly recalled about the future of Yamanaka Shikanosuke, it has already exceeded his limits."

"This is already a burden that he can't bear alone. Wanting Yoshiharu-san to bear our cursed fate by himself is just too cruel."

"But is this really ok? Are you ok with Sagara Yoshiharu not noticing till the very end?"

"Of course, all the hard work I've done till now are to not let him notice it, but I have long since understood that I can't hide it from Kanbei."



"You must have seen through that Simon is here to chase that fellow back to the future, right?"

"Even I can't see through you to that extent, but it's true that I felt you have some ulterior motives. But I've relaxed ever since Yoshiharu-san trusts Kanbei very much from the first time he met you, and after knowing that Yoshiharu-san has someone he can rely on after I'm gone, I can rest my mind."

"..."

"Kanbei, originally, my fate is to retire into Mt Botai and die alone, that is truly unfortunate. Being able to cross paths with Yoshiharu-san is the greatest happiness in my life. It's him that gives me the meaning of life and for that, I'm really thankful."

"Thankful, how can that be, WHY!?"

"The wars of today are based upon the "curse" of the city of Onmyudou Kyoto. Onmyouji should disappear along with the old era, but without knowing it, Nobuna-sama and Yoshiharu-san had been wrapped up

in a battle with the evil spirits of the old era. And for that , I must do something, I'm fated to disappear along with my shikigamis."

"With that said, don't tell me the reason why the dragon vein disappeared suddenly is because..."

"It's I who did it, together with Zenki-san."

"WHAT!? From what Simon thinks, you are the type that is born weak and without absorbing "ki" regularly, you will continue to weaken. If you do such a thing, your body will...."

"Mmm, it will deteriorate even quicker."

Kanbei just can't believe what she was hearing.

"WHY DID YOU DO THAT!?"

"Rather than living a few more years and not doing anything, if it's to help others, those that can inherit my dream, even if it's to shorten my lifespan, isn't it a kind of happiness to help?"

Saying, Hanbei's face once again had a smile clearer than anything.

Almost like she does not care what will happen to her.

That smile that had seen through everything, accepting that her fate is that dying without able to see the fruits of her labor.

Understanding that, Kanbei can no longer look at her smile.

Though she tried her best to endure, she was unable to suppress the sobs coming out softly.

"Just from "ki" Kanbei's strength is much stronger than mine, and your talent is 10 times that of mine who is always engrossed with Onmyoudou. After I'm gone, I'm leaving Yoshiharu-san and Nobuna-sama to you, Kanbei. "

"I Simon....."

"Currently, an extremely terrifying spirit is by Nobuna-sama's side. Now that the onmyoudou has been greatly weakened, an evil method must have been used to create such a strong spirit. The fire from a few days

ago must have been caused by it. I don't have the strength to subdue that spirit anymore, Kanbei, use your namban science to defeat it."

"DON'T START GIVING OTHERS YOUR OWN WORK! DO YOUR OWN STUFF! AND SO, LIVE ON!"

Of course, I wish to live on too, but that is a dream that will never come true. Saying that, a shiver can be seen in her smile.

Like smiling now, yet crying in the next second, her face was that of a complicated expression.

Kanbei averted her gaze.

"Aren't you the one who understands the messed up ways of Sagara Yoshiharu!? The sadness that is assaulting him now has far exceeded what humans can withstand, the one who is supposed to stay by his side to support him is you!"

"The ones that Yoshiharu-san can rely on isn't just me alone, he has his friends, and relatives."

"If you are to die, he will definitely not be able to take it!"

"That's why with you Kanbei around, I can finally relax. I'm leaving Yoshiharu-san to you."

"I don't wanna! Simon isn't a stupidly good person like you so you should do your own job!"

The water that flows from the Yumezaki river is so clear.

And Hanbei's heart is like the water, clear without a hint of dirt.

"Return immediately to your hometown to rest, Takenaka Hanbei! If you rest and don't exert yourself, you can definitely extend a little of your lifespan!"

"Currently, Yoshiharu-san is in a crisis, and we can't expect the reinforcements of Nobuna-sama. This might be the last battle I can be by Yoshiharu-san's side as his strategist. I beg you, till "that moment", can you not tell anyone about my status?"

"WHETHER IT'S MIKI CASTLE OR MT SHOZAN, SIMON WILL CONQUER THEM ALL BY HERSELF! YOU ARE NOT TO DO ANYTHING, YOU GOT IT!?"

But compared to herself, Hanbei worries more about Yoshiharu and with Kanbei now.....

"Kanbei, a strategist is to remain calm and undisturbed by anything, or else your vision will be clouded by shadows. Please do not force yourself and do any dangerous things for me."

Kanbei didn't respond but in her heart, she had decided very strongly.

And that is, "As long as Simon use all her intelligence and wit, she will definitely be able to change Takenaka Hanbei's fate!

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Chapter 6 : The Prelude of Chaos

"The Ukita army is attacking from Mt Shozan~nya!"

"Again!? Just how many times does this make!?"

"Once we face them they will retreat immediately, if we chase, we will be ambushed. And with Mt Shozan being a dangerous place, the way they use the territory as a means of defending like a steel wall makes us unable to launch a full out assault on them with the amount of forces we have.

"My Lord, our soldiers are all extremely tired~nya"

"Damn it, I had no idea there was a natural fortress like Mt Shozan near Himeji castle."

After Miki castle was captured, the Sagara corps which had their retreat path cut off, was being harassed repeatedly by the Mt Shozan's Ukita army.

Northern's Mt Shozan, southern's Miki castle, the Sagara corps was not able to handle these two huge enemy formations.

Though the best way right now is to concentrate his forces to attack a single place, but unfortunately, the Sagara corps does not have the manpower for that.

If they launch a full out assault on a single area, the other side will definitely attack the empty Himeji castle.

Nobuna, who had fainted in the Kamigyo's fire had not regained consciousness, they couldn't expect any reinforcements.

And the Harima daimyos chose not to help either side, as they wait for Yoshiharu to fight it out with Ukita Naoie.

Using chess terms, Sagara corps were nearing checkmate.

Today, Yoshiharu who was finally infuriated rode his horse and launched an attack at the Ukita army across the Yumezaki river.

The soldiers could only frantically follow such a Yoshiharu from behind.

"Now the only way left is to get right in there and capture Ukita Naoie!"

"It's too dangerous, my lord. That fellow is a specialist in using his short tanegashima~nya!"

"This is a trap~nya. Ukita Naoie had planned to provoke us, and when my lord appears on the battlefield yourself, he will take the chance to snipe you!"

"I know, but our rations are depleting soon. If this goes on, our morale will drop to the bottom."

Suddenly, a bullet flew past Yumezaki river and hit Yoshiharu's helmet.

"Uwahh!?"

"MY LORD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"General!!!!!!!!!!!!"

"It...It's ok, the bullet did not pierce through the helmet , but that was a close one!"

"Lucky!"

"Kanbei used the armor of "Oh~It stopped"-kun and modified this helmet, although it adds to the weight it's quite reliable."

"Che, you whose only good point is your good luck, there won't be any problems if you had just given us Shikanosuke, stay on your toes from now on!"

Seemingly waiting, the Ukita army's soldiers appeared at the opposite side of Yumezaki river.

Right in their middle was the mumbling Ukita Naoie as he spins the tanegashima on his hand.

"Listen Sagara Yoshiharu! Oda Nobuna has already been defeated at Kyoto. It's not just luck with the ladies, even the luck on the battlefield has swayed to my side so hurry and die quickly!"

"Your side's Mori army has not arrived yet, right!? Who's giving up now!"

"Haha, I'm sorry but my reinforcements will soon be here."

"Then why did you keep attacking every night like you had no time to spare?"

"Che, if I don't make any contributions before the Mori army arrives, I will be in a difficult situation. Soldiers, take Sagara Yoshiharu's head!"

"Uwahh! You aren't planning to run away this time!? They're coming!!!

soldiers who had crossed Yumezaki river from the updrift appeared from the rear of the Ukita army in the nick of time.

"Sufferings, Yamanaka Shikanosuke is here! Fight 1 on 1 with me, Ukita Naoie!"

The strongest forces in the Sagara corps, the Amago heroes had arrived!

"Che! You're here to ruin my fun again!? The pig samurai Shikanosuke would never be able to see through my plan. Looks like there's quite an intelligent advisor in Himeji castle!"

Of course, Ukita Naoie does not have the intention to fight with Yamanaka Shikanosuke.

Shikanosuke is to be captured alive.

"Hmph, since it'll become more advantageous the more this drags on. All forces retreat back to Mt Shozan."

As per usual, the Ukita army seemed to be very skilled in retreating.

Though Shikanosuke tried her best to chase them, but it's the Ukita army who is faster than her in retreating as they had retreated back to Mt Shozan in the blink of an eye.

"Are you alright, Yoshiharu-sama?"

"I...I'm saved! Why did you come here, Shikanosuke-chan?"

"It's all the instructions of the strategist. I have orders to circle them from the back through the up drift the same time Yoshiharu-sama heads out."

"Strategist? Umm, which is it? Because there's two."

"Both strategist gave me the same order at almost the same time. In the critical moment, those two are like actual sisters, being able to be in the same mind and have such good teamwork."

"Kanbei and Hanbei-chan are in the same mind? What a rare thing that is but no matter what, I'm just too rash today, sorry."

"There's no need for apologies, by not doing anything, we won't be able to change the situation. When I'm fighting with the Mori clan, there were many times that I had overextended myself before I had noticed it, but now ..."

"We have the two strategists with us."

"Exactly, no matter the situation, they will definitely be able to think up of a miraculous plan to turn the tides."

With the help of Shikanosuke, Yoshiharu was finally able to return to Himeji castle; what a close one.

After a while, Yoshiharu noticed that he had died ridiculously in that half-hearted battle and his body starts to shiver uncontrollably.

No matter if it's Okehazama or Kanegasaki, he had relied on his will to live to hang on, but now, he had been forced into a corner by Ukita Naoie totally unprepared.

"I see, because there weren't any fierce battles, I have become restless and lost my wits."

Yoshiharu finally understood that the enemy this time was totally different from the enemies he had met previously. Ukita Naoie isn't the kind of opponent he can win against with just his guts and will!

"Anyway Yoshiharu-sama, didn't you turn me away and hold a secret meeting a few days ago?"

Shikanosuke seems to be angry.

"During that, just what did you guys discuss?"

"Ahh, that... I will definitely tell you about it in the future, but now isn't the time."

"I can understand that Yoshiharu-sama is unable to trust me who has served you for such a short time, but I did feel a little lonely. I must hurry and make some big contributions to have Yoshiharu-sama's trust."

"How can I not trust the one who saved me? Shikanosuke-chan has saved me a couple of times now, I'm so indebted to you and have great trust in you."

"Then why did you refuse to tell me about the contents of the meeting?"

"Umm....."

Yoshiharu is troubled, not mentioning about Nobuna's matters, the choice letting Shikanosuke know about her fate might be obvious.

But,

"No matter what order it is, I will happily accept. Even if I'm abandoned, or being thrown into a trap and die, I do not mind at all, because suffering is my fate!"

With these words from Shikanosuke, he couldn't tell her anything.

He has to take into consideration even that special way of thinking, Yoshiharu was getting an even bigger headache.

"Touchy touchy"

"Ah? Again, Yoshiharu-sama? Why does Yoshiharu-sama love my breasts so much?"

"It's no...not me!?"

"There are only the two of us right now, who can it be if not Yoshiharu-sama!? Not letting me attend the meeting and yet doing such a thing to me. Does Yoshiharu-sama not see me as a warrior!? What humiliation!"

With tears of regret, Shikanosuke left.

No need to ask, it's all the doings of Sunekosuri.

"Why must you wake up at the exact moment that I'm alone with Shikanosuke-chan!?"

"I just love to touch that girl, it's such a regret that you can't touch her, so I'm trying my best for Sagara Yoshiharu's sake too."

"Behave yourself a little!"

"Cough cough, there's a guest, Yoshiharu-san."

Coming in to receive Yoshiharu, Hanbei had brought along an unexpected guest.

"Looks like you are becoming more like it, Sagara-han, it's been a long time."

"Geezer, you're Sakai's Imai Soukyu!"

"That's right, I'm being called over by Takenaka Hanbei-san."

"How did you do it? Himeji castle should have been surrounded."

"That is true in terms of land routes, but if it's through the sea, I can reach here without wasting much time."

"Oh yeah, ships! Himeji castle is right by the sea!"

"If it's military boats and there are any slight movements, we will be attacked by the Mori clan's Murakami navy. But if it's just ordinary merchant boats, as long as we don't do anything serious, the Mori clan won't interfere and..."

"And?"

"I have business relations with the Mori clan and is their important supplier for their weapons, ammunitions and rations. So if it's my Imai boats, the Mori clans will not harm them and will even protect them."

"I see, then why are you here today? It must not be for leisure purposes, right?"

"First is the shipment of rations, they are all hidden at the bottom of the boat."

"What good timing!"

Once he thought of the soldiers not starving in the battlefield, Yoshiharu couldn't control himself, as he held onto the well-built hands of Imai Soukyu and thanked him profusely.

"I have gambled my whole fortune on Hime-sama. If Sagara-han is defeated right here, the Imai clan's days are numbered too. When the time to invest comes, one will invest in it, that's being a merchant."

"You said "first", so there are other things?"

"Takenaka-san had thought of a strategy that could break out of this situation and I'm in charge of providing a few materials."

"Strategy?"

While coughing, Hanbei explained to Yoshiharu.

"Yes, I had always been thinking of a plan to capture Miki castle without a battle. And the conclusion I had is to dig ditches and erect towers all around Miki castle, as we surround Miki castle totally, an example is to build a castle outside another castle."

"We are the ones being sieged, but we will be surrounding Miki castle?"

"Exactly, the commander in Miki castle now is Besho-sama's wife. She's a total amateur in terms of fighting, if there aren't any orders from Ukita Naoie, she can't make any flexible decisions. Cough cough, at the same time we cut off supply lines into Miki castle. We will break off any contact between Ukita Naoie and Miki castle."

"Can we do it?"

"Yes, because of their master being banished, the soldiers at Miki castle have low morale. I'm only suggesting an idea, but if Kanbei who is skilled in engineering and namban science can design and

supervise the Kawanami clan on the spot, we will definitely be able to build a castle that no one in this country has ever seen in a short time."

"It's true that if it's Kanbei, she will be able to think up of some strange weapons, no, maybe she had thought of it long ago."

"And I will deflect the Ukita army here in Himeji castle , leave the commanding here to me."

"Will Ukita Naoie attack?"

"Yes, right now, we are using all our wits to anticipate the next move of the opponent. Once Ukita Naoie notices the crisis at Miki castle, he will attack recklessly, and it will be quite a fierce battle. But even if I sacrifice my life, I will definitely defend it, as I'm skilled in defensive battles. Once we have held our ground against the opponent's first wave of attacks, the cautious Ukita Naoie can only choose to retreat back to Mt Shozan. Cough cough, cough cough, cough sorry."

Looks like Hanbei's body is worsening day by day.

Hanbei had been coughing previously, but the frequency and the severity had reached abnormal levels, while patting her back, Yoshiharu said worryingly.

"You are too sick, hurry and rest! Leave the frontlines to me and Shikanosuke-chan."

"No, it's ok if it's a normal opponent, but with Ukita Naoie as the opponent, without the help of a strategist, you wouldn't even be able to fight. Wasn't Yoshiharu-san being lead into a trap gradually today?"

"But..."

"Yoshiharu-san, once we capture Miki castle, the conquering of Harima will be half done, and..."

Wiping the pale expression off her face, Hanbei said with a serious tone.

"The Yoshiharu-san now did not have the capabilities to be a province's daimyo and commander in chief. Only by passing this trial can Yoshiharu-san grow into a true leader."

Like a changed person, the expression and tone Hanbei had right now was filled with intensity, being frightened by that intensity, Yoshiharu could no longer retort.

"Sagara-han, before Hime-sama wakes up your most important mission is to hold on to Harima."

Under the repeated reminders from Imai Soukyu, Yoshiharu nodded his head but Hanbei's weak appearance was just too unusual.

"Don't tell me.... but how can that be?"

An (Don't tell me Hanbei-chan had some incurable illness?) unease enveloped Yoshiharu's heart.

"Takenaka Hanbei's sickness looks to be very serious? How can that be, you are just worrying too much."

That night, too worried over Hanbei's health, Yoshiharu went over to Kuroda Kanbei's room, wanting to discuss it with her.

But sitting on her namban child and spinning the globe, Kanbei did not seem to mind it at all, a look of totally not caring about Hanbei's health.

"As long as Hanbei-chan is on that geezer's boat and returns to Nagahama, she will feel better, but Hanbei-chan is being stubborn and refuses to go back, just what should I do, Kanbei?"

"You are overthinking things, Hanbei's idea of surrounding Miki castle is a great idea, Simon will definitely design an entirely new way of sieging castles for you to see, you who has two world renown strategists by your side, why are you still so nervous?"

"Really, Kanbei? Is Hanbei-chan's health really alright? "

"Sim, no problem."

"I see, I might really be too nervous. Hanbei-chan had said that I lack the capabilities of being a commander in chief and can only grow after capturing Miki castle."

"Aren't you going to rest? I heard idiots treat thinking like sleeping, and you who originally had no intellect at all, no matter how you think about it, it's useless."

"Geez, can't you say it in a less hurtful way?"

"Simon wants to continue working now, I have to concentrate on the plan to surround Miki castle."

"Then I wouldn't disturb you anymore."

After Yoshiharu left, Kanbei finally made up her mind and took out the tarot cards.

"In divinations, not finding out about his or her own fate is a common sense. Even if he or she tried to find out about this fate, it will only cast a shadow upon their intellect and cause the fate to worsen..... But..."

Wanting to change Hanbei's cursed fate of dying young, she can only use this forbidden method.

"Tonight, Simon is going alone to Mt Shozan to try and persuade Ukita Naoie to join the Oda clan with all her might. Though it's a long shot but if it's successful, Harima will be conquered in a night."

According to Kanbei's own predictions, the chances of success are extremely low.

Often betraying people, Ukita Naoie isn't trusted by the Mori clan.

If he was really persuaded to defect here, he would definitely be a big contributor and rewarded heavily by the Oda clan.... But in contrast, the betrayed Mori clan will definitely raze all of Bizen Mimasaka to the ground in a fit of rage.

And the Mori clan's strategist Kobayakawa Takakage is known to grab opportunities, now that the Sagara corps is isolated in Harima due to Ukita Naoie's schemes and Nobuna having an accident, she will definitely not let this chance go and will soon lead the army over personally.

Once the Ukita army and the Mori clan successfully combined their forces, it's impossible to ask even that betrayer Ukita Naoie to defect.

If one is to gamble, now is the time!

But the chance of success isn't even 10%.

"Wanting to change the huge fate of Oda Nobuna, thus extending that best strategist in the world, Takenaka Hanbei's life is absolutely necessary!"

Once I win, the Sagara corps will be out of this crisis and Hanbei will no longer have any excuses to not rest.

Her feeble life might be able to be saved.

"Whether Simon can change history will all depend on tonight, will my plan be a success or....."

Kanbei clenched her teeth, drew a card from the tarot cards and put it on the table.

On the card, a lonely traveler is with a dog.

And the card was upside down.

A reversed position!

Such a card hints at...

"The Fool"

Kanbei shut her eyes, not speaking a word.

"Uhh, I can't find Kanbei anywhere."

"Sagara-han, Kanbei-san disappeared."

Early morning the next day, the Himeji castle is in an uproar.

And the uproar's reason isn't anything else, but the ex-master of Himeji castle, Kuroda Kanbei had suddenly disappeared.

Kanbei's house was empty.

Only the completed; surround Miki castle plan was lying on the table and on it, different kinds of weird and new inventions.

"Maybe, it's my fault."

Somehow, Hanbei's face suddenly turned pale.

"But, how I wish I'm thinking too much."

The deity that seems to have seen through everything, the face of Hanbei now is filled with big drops of tears as she runs around Himeji castle trying to find Kanbei frantically.

"Don't rush, I will find her back right now!"

Saying that, Yoshiharu flipped his body over the horse and started searching around Himeji castle's perimeter.

But Kanbei could not be found anywhere.

Before he noticed it, Yoshiharu was already right by Yumezaki river.

Right in front of him is Ukita Naoie's base, Mt Shozan.

Mt Shozan had been totally fortified to become a fortress, anyone going near it recklessly would be sniped instantly.

Chasing to this extent, even Yoshiharu had to lower his head.

"Just where did you ran off to? You, did you know just how worried we are?"

Yoshiharu is out of ideas now.

Though he had no idea where Kanbei ran off to, but somehow, he had a bad feeling about it, Hanbei is acting very weird too.

"Oi, Sunekosuri, wake up!"

"What's up?"

Saying with sleepy eyes, Sunekosuri poked it's head out.

"Kanbei ran away from home, do you know where she went? I had search everywhere near Himeji castle."

"Nuu, ran away from home?"

"Ahh, that fellow loves to spilt hairs. If we don't hurry and find her something bad might happen."

"Not counting the period she studied and apprenticed away from home, Kanbei isn't the type who'd run away from home."

"Why?"

"Though Kanbei has a sharp tongue she is actually a child that is scared of being alone and she hates the feeling of being by herself."

"Now that you mention it, Souen did say that when she was young, Kanbei did summon demons as her playmates to fight away loneliness."

"It's the same reason Sunekosuri was created with namban science, Kanbei does not have any friends."

"So she is doing the exact same thing as the time she is learning Onmyouji!"

"But Sagara Yoshiharu, ever since she came to your side, Kanbei's heart has become much softer, though it's not on her face but Sunekosuri understands."

"Then where did Kanbei went?"

"Don't know, but definitely not running away from home."

"If that's the case....."

Yoshiharu is that type of person who cares for his comrades more than himself.

So till now, you haven't been able to get used to this chaotic era.

So, he had a fatal weakness for a sengoku warrior, of " Not being able to abandon anyone when he had to choose between the two".

But even so, Yoshiharu had never thought of changing himself.

(Anyway, when Kanbei was still small, she used to swim in this river, did someone treat her like a kappa? But even if that is in the past in the sengoku era where they can even produce tanegashimas, Kappas don't exist, most probably.)

Just when Yoshiharu was letting his mind float around ,

A "splash" was heard suddenly.

A dark and wet creature is floating on the surface.

"It...It appeareddddddddd! It's your mate, Sunekosuri! Hurry and fight with the demon!"

"Sunekosuri isn't a demon, it's an homunculus created by Kanbei."

"Isn't it the same!?"

"What are you talking about, it's me."

So the small creature that suddenly appear in the river isn't a kappa but Goemon.

"Uwah? Goemon? Why did you suddenly surface from the river?"

"Ninnin, this is to have more time to escape."

"Escape?"

"I had sneaked into Mt Shozan."

"WHAT!?"

"But I nearly died, that mountain is totally hell for ninjas."

Now that she mentioned it, Yoshiharu noticed Goemon's right wrist was hurt, and on it, a piece of cloth torn from a ninja garb.

"Are you alright!?"

"Last night, I coincidentally discovered Kuroda-shi walked into Mt Shozan by herself."

"Eh?"

"I can't be wrong, only Kuroda-shi will wear that sort of namban hear, definitely not Souen but Kuroda-shi."

You see, didn't I say that she didn't run away from home!? Sunekosuri said proudly in Yoshiharu's bosom.

"Wa....Wait, just what is going on!? And what happened to Kanbei after that?"

"Beacause she didn't come out after a long time, I sneaked in because I was worried."

"It's ok if you bite your tongue, but say it in a single line, Goemon!"

"Although Mt Shozan is hell for ninjas I have finally sneak into the deepest part."

"Th...Then?"

"There I overheard a conversation between enemy soldiers."

"Though there's no concrete proof..." Saying that, Goemon hesitated, but she had said it all to Yoshiharu after all.

"Because Himeji castle was forcefully taken by Sagara-shi, bearing a grudge, Kubrobda-shi debfbectebd obvebr to Ukbitba-sbhi.(Kuroda-shi defected over to Ukita-shi)"

"Kuroda Kanbei had defected over to Ukita Naoie!?"

Though Yoshiharu had given orders to keep the news from spreading somehow a leak emerged and spread throughout all of Harima, even to Kyoto from Sakai.

And this rumor wasn't based on nothing.

At first, Kuroda Kanbei had lent her own castle to the Oda clan due to circumstances. Though Yoshiharu had agreed due to various considerations but Kanbei's father Souen had wanted to give Himeji castle to Sagara Yoshiharu.

During that, saying "Why must it be given to this Sagara Yoshiharu?" with a face full of displeasure, that look of Kanbei's was witnessed by many people.

And with Ukita Naoie capturing huge amounts of Harima castles through his "schemes".

It wouldn't be strange for Kanbei to have defected to Ukita Naoie at such a time.

Kanbei had joined the Sagara corps as a strategist, but with a senpai like Hanbei already in the Sagara corps, Kanbei could only be second.

Also their extremely close relationship; that of a pair of siblings between Sagara Yoshiharu and Takenaka Hanbei did not give Kanbei any room to insert herself.

In such a situation, Kanbei who had always seen herself as the smartest person the world would be naturally displeased.

In the end, a rumor like this "With her awkward situation, Ukita Naoie had persuaded Kanbei to defect successfully." emerged.

Right now, the little sister of Kanbei, Shojyumaru is staying in Northern Omi's Nagahama castle of the Oda clan as a hostage.

And the northern part of Kyoto, the Kamigyo district had just been reduced to a pile of ruins by a large fire.

Kyoto was spreading, "Oda Nobuna has personally fanned the commoners to reduce Kamigyo which supports Ashikaga Yoshiaki to ashes." such vicious rumors.

People were even discussing among themselves whether Nobuna was planning to burn the palace down too.

Everyone in Kyoto was terrified, not knowing what's the next step for Oda Nobuna who is actually unconscious in Honnou temple.

At such a crucial moment, Kanbei's little sister, Shojyomaru is the first to be impacted.

"If Kanbei really betrayed them...."

"Oda Nobuna will definitely execute her sister."

"It's ok if it's a guy, but for girls, she won't actually execute her, right?"

"That's so logically speaking, but that's the demon lord of the sixth realm."

"If that's the case, won't that Sagara Yoshiharu be in danger too?"

"He might be dragged in too."

"If it's that demon lord; she might burn down Kamigyo in a fit of rage."

"Even if it's the sengoku era, this is far too cruel."

The reason why a rumor like this emerged was because of the "Golden skulls" incident.Nobuna used to reincarnate Asai Nagamasa into Oichi, but that's far from being the whole reason.

Someone was intentionally spreading vicious rumors of Nobuna secretly.

Forking out huge amounts of money to bride the newspaper merchants to print news that would harm Nobuna; those exact people.

In the palace,

"Hohoho, that damn lass Oda Nobuna is dead for sure this time."

"Ha, the effect of spreading rumors is slowly starting to show. Right now, no matter what I say about Oda Nobuna, those commoners will believe all of it."

The one currently talking is the black teethed Maro, Kampaku, Konoe Sakihisa and a slim man, the Sakai merchant, Tsuda Sougyu.

Behind Konoe, a big built man was sitting there silently.

Wanting to overthrow Nobuna while keeping it a secret from Himiko, Konoe Sakihisa had thought of a new plan.

"This is the strength of words, even if it's such a unthinkable rumor, once it's printed, it will be treated as a true story."

"Rather than good rumors, the foolish commoners love vicious rumors. Rather than ordinary stories, they like strange stories even more."

"But that fire at Kyoto incident really scares I Maro. If the palace is really destroyed, I will be finished too."

"There's no helping it, since monsters aren't someone we humans can fully control."

"I had asked Tsuchimikado to take note of it. He actually brought that along and said it's an "evil spirit", but if we had not believed him then, things will not had gone so smoothly."

"Haha."

"But I never expected that damn lass Oda Nobuna to actually survive through."

"Her luck is so terrifyingly good."

"That good luck ends here, now that the Tsuchimikado clan, Ashikaga shogun and I Maro are teaming up, we will definitely chase that destroyer out from Kyoto. If Ashikaga shogun is able to return, I Maro can finally relax."

At this moment, Tsuda Sougyu asked at the man sitting behind Konoe Sakihisa.

"Anyway, who is this person behind you?"

There is a big built man with a monk's attire, due to the curtain, one could not distinguish his looks.

"He is helping I Maro as a strategist in this anti-oda faction. Though I can't tell you guys his real identity yet, but who he is will definitely shock everyone."

"Oh, he must be some very famous person."

"That goes without saying, and he had already thought of the next step to force Oda Nobuna even more into a corner."

"What, the next step is?"

"Hohoho, Oda Nobuna isn't an opponent you can kill easily. Even if one poisons her, as long as Matsunaga Danjo and Manase Belchior are around, it's impossible to finish her off."

"You have a point."

"So we need to spend some time, slowly and surely pushing Oda Nobuna into a corner."

At this moment, Tsuda Sougyu emphasized again, " Once this Oda Nobuna matter is taken care of, you will give Sakai to me, right?"

Revealing his black teeth, Konoe Sakihisa laughed, " Hohoho, that goes without saying. Our fates are tied together now."

That "Next step" happens within the Honnou temple that Nobuna lies unconscious.

Because she was invaded by the miasma during the encounter with the evil spirit at the fire of Kamigyo,

After that night, she had been bedridden. Today, she was unconscious on the bed as well.

In a house beside her, the renowned doctor Manase Belchior is talking to the aide that was recently hired.

"She will recover in a few days more, not bad, not bad. An unknown illness like this, it's more effective to use traditional medicine rather than namban medical techniques. Though the effect of traditional medicine isn't obvious at first, but it is slowly helping her."

"That is the best, as expected of Manase-sama."

In this batch of aides that was recently hired, the one that Nobuna used the most is a 17 or 18 years old girl.

She had a decent and distinguished look, her pair of big eyes shines with a smart glow.

Even Nobuna whose standard for bishoujos is extremely high was very satisfied with her looks, and the ero-doctor, Manase Belchior's bad habit of saying "Not bad, not bad" as he feign an accident while extending his hands towards her breasts had once again relapsed, and the ending is obviously...

"This can only be said, "Stop joking around" once again ."

Piak.

The aide dodged Manase Belchior's hands elegantly and sent a thrust right into his chest.

"Kuu, cough cough cough, nicely done, Aide-san. Looks like Nobuna-sama can't get up from the bed today still."

"Ok I got it, she won't be able to get up."

While crying "Ouch, it hurts. The aide this time is really merciless.", Manse Belchior left Honnou temple and brushed past Settsu's envoy.

Once Settsu's envoy entered Honnou temple, he immediately shouted frantically, "Please see this, Hime-sama."

"What happened?"

"Something bad happened at Harima! After Miki castle , even Kuroda Kanbei has defected to Ukita Naoie!"

"Stop sprouting nonsense about such things, is there any proof?"

"Though there isn't any concrete proof, but Kuroda Kanbei had disappeared from Himeji castle!, now everywhere is rustling with the rumor that she had defected over to Ukita Naoie, the Sagara corps is in the brink of collapse!"

"I understand, I will report this to Hime."

"There's one more thing, what should we do about the hostage, Shojyomaru?"

"I got it, come again tommorow."

"Please help me inform them because this matter will affect our allies too. Both Settsu and Yamato show signs of movement!"

"Oh, Yamato's master Matsunaga Hisahide is indeed an evil person, well known for betraying her master."

"Right now, the Ashikaga Yoshiaki currently residing in the Mori clan is distributing huge amounts of letters inciting them to revolt, if the rumor of Kuroda Kanbei defecting is written in it too, it will definitely bring along even more defection! Please ask Hime for instructions immediately!"

"Ok, I got it."

The aide ask the envoy to wait for a while as she entered Nobuna's bedroom by herself.

For the longest time, the aide did not return.

"Are you done, Aide-sama!?"

The panicking envoy can't help but raise his volume as he shouted into the house.

After another short while, the aide finally returned.

"Sorry for making you wait, I Manmi Senchiyo had received the orders from Hime-sama."

"Ohh, what should we do about the hostage? Like I thought, we should show mercy to calm our allies down, right!?"

"Execute the hostage publicly right away, that is what Hime-sama said."

"Ah?"

"There's no room for suspicion on the matter of Kuroda Kanbei defecting. Execute the hostage Shojyumaru immediately, if Sagara Yoshiharu resists, he and his retainers are to be punished accordingly, those are Hime-sama's orders."

"Im....Impossible!?"

"Tell Sagara Yoshiharu to execute Shojyomaru immediately, if you defy my orders, all retainers in the Sagara corps stationed at Nagahama castle will to be dealt the death penalty."

"How can this be!? How can Hime-sama give such orders!? No matter what, we shouldn't execute that child. ....."

"Just like you said, the situation is becoming more and more serious, Hime-sama should be trying to scare those who dare to revolt using this matter."

"Sagara-sama will never accept such an order!"

"If that's the case, then completely destroy Nagahama castle. A small castle that has not finished building, as long as Hime-sama leads her army personally, it will be razed to the ground within a day."

After the new aide Manmi Senchiyo smiled and transmitted the stunned envoy "Nobuna's orders", she left.

The latter's shoulders kept shivering from rage as he lowered his head and left Honnou temple, heading towards Harima.....

"Sagara-sama, though I can't believe it too but Hime-sama had given such an order, "Execute Shojyumaru immediately", if not all of Sagara-sama's retainers in Nagahama castle will be dealt the death penalty.... I...I will retreat for now."

Taking Imai Soukyu's merchant boat, the envoy reached Harima and gave Sagara Yoshiharu who was currently supervising the surrounding of Miki castle " Nobuna's orders".

Likely being afraid to see Yoshiharu's anguished look, the envoy had lowered his head and left before Yoshiharu could answer.

And Sagara Yoshiharu who was originally looking at the map of Miki castle was unable to utter a single word after hearing the orders.

(Just what is happening, Nobuna? No matter how much you like being angry, you aren't the kind of person who would give such an order.)

Though he wished to say that, but his overly shocked throat just couldn't utter a single word.

"Just what is going on?"

Just from repeating these words repeatedly, Yoshiharu seemed to have used up all his strength.

Kanbei would never defect to Ukita Naoie, Nobuna would never easily listen to such a rumor. It should originally be so, but why had she gave "Execute Shojyomaru immediately" such an order?

Right now, due to the help of Hanbei's idea and the design left by Kanbei, the surrounding of Miki castle was going smoothly with amazing speed.

Just like what Hanbei predicted, Ukita Naoie who had been stationed at Mt Shozan panicked. immediately he began to move his troops around seriously in a rare move.

Soon, he will start attacking the weak Himeji castle with all his strength to break the surrounding of Miki castle.

But Hanbei and Yamanaka Shikanosuke who had long expected this had since lead the Amago heroes and guarded Himeji castle.

Today morning, under Hanbei's command and Shikanosuke's gallant actions, they had successfully repelled the Ukita army's recon attack.

Because of the sudden disappearance of Kanbei, the work that Hanbei have to tend to personally had increased with abnormal speed.

She had repeatedly went to and fro between Miki castle and Himeji castle, with the minimum amount of soldiers guarding Himeji castle and at the same time, working on the surrounding of Miki castle, it can be said that she had used up all her wits.

But the current Hanbei had a strange atmosphere around her, like a single candle in a gust of wind, the flame ready to extinguish any time.

Yoshiharu was worried about Kanbei's safety and at the same time, worried about Hanbei's body.

But at this time he received Nobuna's unbelievable " order".

"Nobuna would never say such a thing, but I can't let Hanbei-chan overexert herself like this, just what should I do?"

Yoshiharu tried his best to think by himself, but no matter how he worked that brain of his, he just couldn't think of a good way.

The only thing that might work is that he go to Kyoto and meet Nobuna himself.

But now that the Miki castle battle is going smoothly, if he threw the work to Hanbei and returned himself, there was a feeling that Hanbei's body would worsen from the extra work.

At this moment....

"Cough cough, Yoshiharu-san, did Nobuna-sama gave some ridiculous order?"

Yoshiharu wanted to hide it, but Hanbei is the strategist after all.

Wanting to hide the fact from the observant her was impossible.

After rushing to Himeji castle during the night and battling with the Ukita army till dawn, Hanbei had now rushed back to Miki castle, to Yoshiharu's side.

Though Yoshiharu touched Hanbei's head while tying to persuade her, "Don't force yourself, hurry and go rest, Hanbei-chan.", but ever since the moment that Kanbei disappeared, Hanbei had never obeyed such orders from Yoshiharu.

"Himeji castle is safe, due to Ukita Naoie being too anxious, he has misjudged the situation. Right now, he must have noticed that he won't be able to make it and will not attack Himeji castle for the time being."

"Hanbei-chan, Nobuna will never give an order like executing Shojyomaru."

"I understand, there must be some kind of a trick within. The bigger the organization, the easier the contents of the order could be changed. The expansion of the Oda clan is way too fast, the transmitting of orders can not keep up with the pace and is now in a state of chaos."

"Then let's ignore that order."

"Cough, cough, that can't do too. Now, due to Kanbei's disappearance, the stability of the Oda clan has been

shaken, if Yoshiharu-sama disobeys Nobuna-sama's " order" now, the Oda clan will fall into an even greater chaos."

"Kanbei will never betray us, I'm going back to Kyoto to explain it to Nobuna."

"It's useless, from what I see, I'm afraid you can't even get to meet Nobuna-sama now."

"Can't see her? Why did you say that?"

"I think the communications between Nobuna-sama and the retainers has been obstructed by some anonymous people close to her."

"People close to her? Who?"

"I have no idea now. Anyway, leave Shojyomaru to I Hanbei."

"No, how can I add on to Hanbei-chan's workload!?"

"Yoshiharu-san, I'm afraid the reason why Kanbei disappeared is because of me."

"Why did you say that?"

"Yoshiharu-sama is currently at the most dire of situations, so please do not lose yourself no matter what happens. All you need to do is to concentrate all your might onto the surrounding of Miki castle, leave Shojyomaru-chan to me."

Why is Hanbei looking so frantic now? Although Yoshiharu feels strange about it, but in the end, he decided to believe that Hanbei had a plan for Shojyomaru.

Just how much time did she spend on thinking such things!?

Once again, Yoshiharu caressed Hanbei's head.

"I got it, I'm leaving it to you."

"Thank you, and..."

"Hmmm?"

"Sunekosuri is touching my thighs now, uhhh."

AGAIN!? There will be a day I will turn this furry demon into a meat stick! Yoshiharu decided secretly.

"But even now, we still have no idea on the whereabouts of Kanbei, it's been so long."

"Uhhh, it will become clear within these few days. I have already sent Goemon to investigate a few places with high possibilities."

"I can put my mind to rest if Goemon is doing it, but she does not have any self-awareness of being a retainer samurai!"

"Even if it's for Shojyomaru-chan, we need to find Kanbei ASAP."

"Staying here and not doing anything is too hard for me, should I hurry and search too?"

"No, now that the surrounding of Miki castle is at such a crucial point, how can the commander in chief leave? If Yoshiharu-san really did that...; you are too rash."

(Recently, Hanbei-chan is much more harsh in her expectations of me.)

"Someone of great caliber should train to be unfazed even in the face of great danger."

I will one day become a guy of great caliber to show Hanbei-chan.

No matter what hardships, I will definitely believe that we will overcome it with our comrades.

Even if Kanbei has disappeared, even if Nobuna has given such a ridiculous order, I will endure it as the head of the Sagara corps, keep enduring it.

Yoshiharu firmly believes that he will definitely pass through this ordeal.

(But somehow, I feel that Hanbei-chan who has been training me had become frantic, what's this unease that I just can't shake off?)

To handle Shojyomaru's matter, Hanbei left and soon after, a slim Kuroda Souen with a monk's attire came over.

"Why did you come, geezer!?"

"Ahh, Kanbei has too met with a problem she can't solve. The strange rumors in Himeji castle had spread, saying Oda Nobuna had ordered the immediate execution of Shojyomaru or that it's all Kanbei's fault."

Souen smiles with a smile that seems to seen through any mundane matter as he looks at the crisis that had befall onto the Kuroda clan.

"There's no need to worry, geezer. Shojyomaru will be fine, I had asked Hanbei-chan to handle it."

"Hoho..... I can relax now that it has fallen to her, this is all caused by my Kanbei's ignorance, I'm really sorry for that."

"Geezer, do you know where Kanbei has gone? Though I want to search all possible places, but there's not enough manpower."

"If that child can't understand the logic of not doing everything by herself, no, maybe she had understood it, that's why she had betted everything she has on this problem that she can't solve. It's just like her to make such a mistake."

Souen seems to know where Kanbei is right now.

"If you had given it to Takenaka Hanbei-sama, I'm sure she will find Kanbei immediately. But at that time, the Kuroda clan will definitely be in a state of chaos,

leave this to me. I will definitely not let any of the Kuroda clan betray Sagara-sama."

"Uuuuu"

Kuroda Kanbei is being imprisoned in the depths of Mt Shozan.

This prison was formed by reshaping a natural cave after Ukita Naoie conquered Mt Shozan.

Without any sunlight, it was extremely cold and dark in the prison throughout the year. The ceiling was very low too, a person can't even stand up straight.

The moisture was extremely high too, at such an environment, different types of insects had appeared and the stench lingering around the area causes Kanbei to can't even breathe at the start.

Holding on to the "fool" card tightly, Kanbei can no longer remember how many days had she been imprisoned here.

At the start, she had came to Mt Shozan alone,

but don't mention about trying to persuade Ukita Naoie with her eloquent skills, she can't even meet Naoie before being thrown to this prison.

In the end, it is as the tarot card had hinted.

The reverse "fool" hints:

Foolish actions,

Recklessness,

Isolation.

But to change Hanbei's fate and more so, changing Nobuna's fate, Kanbei bravely ignored the tarot card's warning and bet her life on it.

Actually, she herself understands that this will most likely fail.

But she must gamble on that miniscule possibility.

If everyone starts caring for themselves and no one wants to bet their own life, how can it be possible to change the huge tides of history.

Kanbei thought.

Even now, she does not feel any regret for her decision then.

She must do it,

There's only one thing she does not understand.

(I was prepared to be killed immediately after failing, but why does he spare my life?)

Maybe Ukita Naoie thought that she is much more useful alive.

It's just this feeling of solitude that makes it hard to bear.

Kanbei is someone who is afraid of loneliness.

Without anyone beside her, she will have no one to talk to. No matter how fast her brain works, how many ideas she can think of, without anyone listening to them, it was all meaningless.

Kanbei understands this deeply when she is still a kid in Harima.

During the time she is creating Sunekosuri, the chant that Kanbei chanted was "My heart's solitude and pain is hoping for some warmth. Awake, someone who can filled this thirst of mine."

Though she always hold herself as the smartest person in the world, but the loneliness in Kanbei;s heart, she can't tell that to anyone. Such sadness drove her to chant the spell to create a "friend".

But at that time, at least Rikyuu sensei is by her side.

But now, there's only darkness left.

Even whether she can survive and meet the others is unknown.

(If at least Sunekosuri is around...)

During the time Kanbei drew out the "fool", she had already know of her fate. The fool is a vagrant, someone who only have a small dog as it's companion.

At first, the reason why she created the artificial spirit Sunekosuri during the period she was studying was also because she can't bear with the loneliness.

But after meeting with Oda Nobuna and being asked to join the Sagara corps, everyday had become fulfilling. To Kanbei who does not have any companions, her lonely heart is healed by Sagara Yoshiharu and his companions. Oda Nobuna who thirsts for the world overseas same as her, the one who came from the future, Sagara Yoshiharu who completely accepts herself and though is wittier than her and a much more accomplished strategist, Takenaka Hanbei who is always humble, they nourished Kanbei's soul which had become thirsty from solitude.

(Letting Sunekosuri possess Sagara Yoshiharu is truly a mistake. He is in fact trying his best to save Oda Nobuna, and being captured by Ukita Naoie is all because I was reckless. Simon always acts before thinking things through, if it's Takenaka Hanbei, she won't make such a mistake.)

Because of her disappearance, the burden on Hanbei will definitely become even heavier, it might even cause her death to approach earlier.

It might even be that she is already...

This... is this part of history too?

Not just the naive Sagara Yoshiharu, even I can't change history just by myself.

Humans can't survive alone, a world with just yourself is no different than that of hell.

Sudden noises of footsteps disrupted the deadly silence in the underground prison.

"Who is it?"

Ever since she had been imprisoned here, there wasn't any signs of people around.

"Umm, I had brought some water and riceballs."

It's a voice only a small girl will have.

Outside the metal bars, a small silhouette slowly approaches.

For the first time in days, Kanbei spoke.

"You are...?"

"I will be back, please forgive Otoo-sama."

Kanbei crawled towards the metal bars.

Not just due to hunger, her legs won't move as she wants due to long periods of not extending fully.

Food and water was given into the cell.

With tears flowing down, Kanbei stuffed the rice ball into her mouth.

She does not know who is this small girl.

But once she thought that she had not been forgotten from this world, Kanbei broke into tears of happiness.

But after eating the rice ball and finishing the water,

That man who is almost like the personification of disaster appears at the entrance of the prison.

Ukita Naoie,

Has he just finish from a battle, his body is filled with scratch wounds.

But his face was filled with a gloating smile.

"Yo Kuroda Kanbei, you're still alive, huh? Hmm? What's with that plate?"

"...."

"Che, that Hideie brat, huh? She's not listening to me at all."

"Hideie? Who is that?"

"What good does it do me to tell you that?"

Naoie said while mercilessly giving a kick right at Kanbei who is before the metal bars.

Looks like he had just lost a battle.

From this, looks like Takenaka Hanbei is still alive.

Upon understanding this, Kanbei once again have the courage to live on.

"Oi Kanbei, since you are a young girl too so I'm giving you a chance to present yourself to me. I am the " Princess knight killer", hahaha!"

Kanbei stare at Ukita Naoie furiously.

Born with heaven's blessing and received extraordinary wit, there are some people like this man who do what they want according to their desires.

If she had not met Oda Nobuna, she will definitely not understand the meaning of using her own intelligence for others and will definitely waste her life away.

"But a small girl like you who haven't even mature isn't fit enough for me to use my short arquebus, no, maybe I should use a cannon who can't shoot due to the moisture?"

"I have totally no idea what you are talking about, what are you here for?"

"Ahh, after capturing you, I had forgotten all about it. But the Sagara corps are unexpectedly resilient, even without you, they are impenetrable."

"You spread the rumor of Simon defected over, right?"

"Oh, it's a good plan, right? Looks like as long as Takenaka Hanbei is still around, no matter if it's conquering Harima castle or capturing Yamanaka Shikanosuke alive will prove to be extremely difficult."

Takenaka Hanbei is still alive as expected.

Finally, Kanbei can see a light amongst this darkness.

"If I'm not careful, Miki castle will be surrounded with a bunch of never seen before weapons and tools. And it's at this critical moment that the Moris start heading out to Harima. If this goes on, my Bizen and Mimasaka will be in danger."

Ukita Naoie spins his short arquebus and said the main point.

"If you want to live on, be my strategist. As long as we can defeat Takenaka Hanbei and capture Yamanaka Shikanosuke alive, you will be the undisputed best

strategist in the world. You don't want to starve to death in this hellish prison, right?"

As if boasting about a certain victory, Ukita Naoie laughed sinisterly.

If she rejects him, he will never just let her go like that.

But the shivering Kanbei said "no" nevertheless.

"Hoo, you're quite brave, huh? I had thought that Kuroda Kanbei isn't an idiot, am I wrong?"

"Definitely no, Simon will never betray her companions."

"Companions? Ha, you shouldn't be around them for too long, right? But forget it, since I had thought you will not simply relent from the start, I had prepared many torture tools."

"!?"

"If the target is a child, my cannon is now useless. Now that I can't capture you through the pleasure of climaxing and I don't have the time to wait for you to grow up, looks like there's only torture left."

Naoie took out several black sacks.

"Sorry about this, missy but if the Mori's are here, I will be dead meat. For my current position, I had killed countless people, but I don't want to fall into the situation of my territories being taken back and I committing seppuku, though there's nothing to complain about too! Come, choose one that you like."

Kacha kacha.

Kanbei's jaws starting shivering on their own due to fear.

Looking at the sinister smile of Naoie approaching, Kanbei feels that her heart had almost stopped pumping.

"The sack on the right has a grass poison that makes your face grow huge bloats, making you extremely ugly. The middle sack has an insect poison that makes you unable to walk for the rest of your life if it's injected into your knees. The one on the left has a poison that makes all your hair drop to the ground and they will never grow back. Actually, all these aren't supposed to be used on girls and you are quite the beauty too, sooner or later, you will definitely be quite the looker. Ahh, upon

thinking that, I can almost cry with regret, but there's no helping it, this is all for the 50k kan of Bizen and Mimasaka!"

"Uhh, uhhh..."

Kanbei covered her face and started crying.

SAVE ME!!! Wanting to shouted out.

Even if she use (Samurais aren't supposed to cry.), the sobs in her throat can't be suppressed.

But only "I surrender", Kanbei will never agree to say these words no matter what.

If she tried to live on and surrender, she will have no face to see Takenaka Hanbei ever again.

And if she really do that, she will never be able to compare herself with Takenaka Hanbei.

It's just her looks being destroyed, her hair being uprooted, and not able to walk for life.

If you are a samurai, endure them, Simon!

Kanbei shouted like this at herself countless times.

But tears still flows down, not heeding her wishes.

"Oioi, don't cry! Won't that makes me a baddie!? Even I am unwilling to do such a thing to a small girl! But if I don't do it, the one who will be dead is me! You spoilt princess who had always stayed in the castle without a care in the world might not understand, but this world is filled with killing and misfortunate! If you want to blame , blame it on your bad luck that you are born in this chaotic era!"

"UWAHHHHHH!"

"Ahh, enough! I can't take it, why must I do such a thing!? I got it I got it, I won't do anything hurtful to you, just say "I surrender", alright?"

Suddenly, Ukita Naoie changes his attitude, he smiled gently and lightly caressed Kanbei's head through the metal bars.

I can't surrender! Though Kanbei's heart is shouting out like this and wants to resist, but she is slowly losing the ability to resist further.

Just when she is about to say "I surrender",

Kanbei can see a flower on a vine behind Naoie.

Till now, Kanbei had not noticed such a weak plant.

In the cave where not even sunlight is able to shine in, the weak vine is still trying it's best to grow.

Even if no one sees it, the flower continues to bloom.

That flower warms Kanbei's heart like Hanbei's refreshing smile.

Hanbei she, for Oda Nobuna's dream, for Sagara Yoshiharu's ambition, she had bet her short life.

And I'm still living, knowing full well that Naoie has no plans to kill me.

Why am I crying non stop like this!?

I can't be like this!

"Hmmm? Why did you suddenly stop crying?"

Kanbei didn't avoid Naoie's gaze and said.

".....I refuse, Simon will never betray her companions."

"If you want to torture me, do as you wish. But "I" will never relent."

[6]

"I?" Mystified by how she addressed herself, Naoie said to himself.

"Nono, you should be a girl, though I didn't see it but it should be."

But before he can react, she had retorted, "Are you an idiot!?"

"Why aren't you listening to me!? Though humans are like insects in my eyes, but even I had my own resolve! The beauty of the "Princess knight killer" is to never kill any girls, but to use them to contribute all of themselves for my ambition!"

"Your resolve is applicable to Simon too?"

"Ahh, become a nun now! Abandon the sword and the mundane status and I can at least spare your life! This is a privilege only princess knights have!"

"Simon is already into Christianity, I can't convert just to live on."

"Ahhhh!! You don't look like someone who believes in deities no matter how I look at you, why must you be so resolute at such a dumb thing!?"

"Though I'm not filled with faith like those devout believers but I will not do a thing like surrendering just to extend my life. If you want to ask why, if I surrender here, Simon's heart will be used to giving up and I will lose to you completely, human hearts are like this."

Ahhhhhh!!!! Ahhhhhhhh!!! Naoie roared.

"I don't understand! I don't understand! Do you know what will happen if you continue like this!? Do you know what exactly are you thinking about now!?"

"Simon had received many gratitudes from companions, Sagara Yoshiharu trying his best to protect me at Himeji castle, Oda Nobuna acknowledging my talent and Takenaka Hanbei teaching me what a strategist should look like."

"What about it!? If you die, won't it become nothing!? Stupid idiot! You are an immature brat after all!"

Naoie took out his last trump card.

"Are you really ok with this!? You maintaining your loyalty is totally meaningless! Though you maintain your stand of not betraying your companions, but Oda Nobuna, she....!"

Naoie's words once again shook Kanbei's stance.

"Oda Nobuna had ordered Sagara Yoshiharu to execute your little sister!"

From shock, Kanbei roared out in an instant, "You liar! "

"You liar you liar you liar, if it's the two of them, they will never do such a thing!"

"I'm not lying, Oda Nobuna is a demon lord who can do a thing like using Asai Asakura's skulls as her wine cup. She had threaten Sagara Yoshiharu that she will kill all of his companions if he did not execute your little sister! From the start, Oda Nobuna had never care about

the life of your little sister. Without any proof, she had ordered an execution of an innocent girl, she is an evil lord even more than me!"

"You're the one who did it, right? What tricks did you do to deceive Oda Nobuna!?"

"I'm not the culprit, but it must be someone's plan. It's rumored that Oda Nobuna had been possessed by a demon, Kyoto is filled with miasma right now."

From the expression of Naoie, he does not seem to be lying.

Kanbei is panicking.

"Is it true, Shojyomaru she...?"

"It does not matter whether she had fallen for it, but your little sister being dead is already an unchangeable fact."

" Shojyomaru she... Shojyomaru she..."

"All of the Oda clan are your little sister's enemies!"

"No, they are my comrades, Shojyomaru is definitely alive. Simon trust her companions!"

"AHHHHHHH! I just can't get through to you."

At this time, a shot of light reflected at the back of Naoie.

"Pass this card to Sagara Yoshiharu!"

Without thinking, Kanbei threw the "fool" in her hand over at the light's direction.

"Ah? Who is it?"

Naoie turned his head and found a small ninja with a black ninja attire who had sneaked into the prison while hiding her presence.

After the ninja used all her strength to grab the card Kanbei threw over, she easily dodged the slash that Naoie "Wait a minute!!!!" slashed at her and said to the Kanbei behind metal bars.

"....I will pass on your feelings, please live on, Kuroda-shi. We will definitely save you."

Kanbei nodded wordlessly.

The ninja's speed is astonishingly quick.

In one breathe, she had jumped out of the underground prison and into the forest.

"Che, since we're at a bright spot now, that means this short arquebus can be useful already!"

Chasing right after her, Naoie kept shooting at her.

Looks like Naoie who is currently filled with bloodlust did not realise that this ninja who had covered her face is actually a small girl.

The shooting skill of Naoie is top notched. If he isn't from a warrior family, he will most likely be a professional assassin.

The bullets kept brushing past the ninjas head and legs through the tree branches.

But by bending the joints of her legs and hands and with the unsystematic movement of a ninja, she had finally dodge the risk of getting hit directly by Naoie.

"Ku, what a tough opponent."

"Stop right there! I will never let you return alive!!"

"Looks like saving Kuroda-shi won't be easy."

"Will I let you escape!! Ow... Ouch ouch!"

Naoie stepped onto the spikes that the ninja placed and start shouting in agony.

And at that instant,

With a boom,

A smoke bomb exploded in the woods.

"Oh!!?"

Not giving up, Naoie rushed into the smoke to find the whereabouts of the ninja.

But the ninja is long gone.

Shouting at the long gone ninja,

"LISTEN NINJA! SINCE YOU GUYS HAVE FOUND OUT THAT KANBEI HAD NOT DEFECTED, THAT

BRAT NO LONGER HAVE ANY USES! I WILL KILL KANBEI IMMEDIATELY!"

Even if he can no longer see the ninja, Naoie continues to run around in the woods of Mt Shozan while shouting.

"I'M NOT SCARING YOU GUYS! BECAUSE OF THE THINGS YOU DONE, MY RESOLVE IS NOW GONE! I'M REALLY GOING TO KILL HER!!!!"

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Chapter 7 : Shooting Star

When Goemon returns to Yoshiharu's side, the time is already midnight.

The huge surround of Miki castle had totally cut off all connections Miki castle had with the world.

The design that Kanbei thought of had also surpassed any common sense of Japanese sieging methods.

One of the key reasons is the countless amount of watch towers.

Soldiers in those watch towers can use the namban imported telescopes to observe any movement in Miki castle.

The other key reason is the combination of fences and deep ditches.

Putting the newest namban imported cannons by Imai Soukyu in huge mobile towers allows huge impact on the defensive structures of Miki castle from a high attitude.

Such a never seen before mobile tower is due to Kanbei using Nobuna's suggestion of putting "Oh~ It

stopped" wheels to design a sieging weapon. Though it still can't be used on mountainous terrain but in flat grounds, it can be moved slowly.

Unable to attack, the soldiers in Miki castle can only silently look at these never seen before huge weapons being assembled day after day with astonishing speed. Ô It is no longer possible for Ukita Naoie to transport rations over to Miki castle by land routes.

And the sea routes had been totally cut off due to the Amago heroes.

Coming back into camp, even Goemon can't help but be impressed over these legendary weapons and with Hanbei's talent.

She had created stuff that can only be considered a scientific idea, such an extraordinary thing is truly shocking.

The era is moving forward.

"Why are you always coming back with your clothes in tatters, Goemon? Don't overexert yourself too much."

Yoshiharu personally receives Goemon.

"Takanaka-shi guessed correctly."

"So like what we expected....

"Kuroda-shi is being imprisoned in the prison at Mt Shozan, I cbabn't savbe hebr jubst by mbybselbf (I can't save her just by myself.)"

Goemon handed over the "fool" that Kanbei passed to Yoshiharu.

Though Yoshiharu does not understand the meaning behind the card but the small dog being the only companion of the lonely vagrant fits the image of Sunekosuri and Kanbei.

"Looks like Kuroda-shi headed towards Mt Shozan alone to persuade Ukita Naoie, but she was captured unfortunately."

Yoshiharu understands the reason why Kanbei passed this card over to Goemon.

The one that the card is hinting is Kanbei herself.

"That fellow said herself that a person alone will never be able to change history so why did she hide this from us and do such a dangerous thing by herself?"

His eyes feel funny like it's close to crying but it isn't the time to shed tears.

A day earlier, no, a second earlier, I must save Kanbei ASAP.

"But, it's a little complicated, Sagara-shi."

"What's with it?"

"The fact that I had confirmed that Kuroda-shi is alive had already been discovered by Ukita Naoie.
Naoie-jii-san said he is going to execute Kuroda-san."

"Executed?"

"Kuroda-shi had not defected, but the current situation isn't good."

"Yeah."

"The security there will definitely become even stricter. Saving Kuroda-shi will definitely not be easy, we need to keep that in mind."

"We don't have time now."

Just when Yoshiharu is thinking hard for a strategy, Hanbei brought along a small girl.

"Cough cough. Ukita sent over an envoy, Yoshiharu-san."

"Hanbei-chan, didn't I tell you to go rest already?'

"It seems to be something urgent."

The envoy that Ukita Naoie sent is an extremely young and small girl.

But she seems to be very calm as she came deep into the enemy's territory.

The girl seems to be of different origin, both her hair and eye color are different from the people in this country.

She's quite a bright child.

"I brought my lord's letter, I will wait here for your reply. If there's nothing else, excuse me."

The girl politely left the letter behind and walked out of the tent.

And Yoshiharu who received the letter was shocked by the content of the letter.

"What's the content?"

"Since you guys have discovered that Kuroda Kanbei had not defected, there's no need for me to spare her life, I will execute her, but...."

"Uhh, "but...."? What's next, Yoshiharu-san?"

"I had not received any orders to kill Kuroda Kanbei. All the Moris care for are the conquering of Harima and the capturing of Yamanaka Shikanosuke. Now it looks like I just need to capture Yamanaka Shikanosuke before the Mori troops are here and my position will be secured. "

While reading Naoie's letter, Yoshiharu's hand was trembling with rage.

"The Mori troops will reach Harima in 10 days. Before then, if you agree to use Yamanaka Shikanosuke as an exchange, I will return Kanbei unharmed, but if you don't, the day that the Mori troops arrive will be the day that Kuroda Kanbei dies, treat it as a reward for pushing me into a corner."

Finishing the letter, Yoshiharu roared, "UKITA NAOIE YOU BASTARD! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS SHIT!?"

The rage boiling in his heart has reached the point where he doesn't even know what to vent it on.

"I will never give Shikanosuke-chan away! I know of this piece of history, the Mori clan have no mercy whatsoever for their rival, the Amago heroes. Shikanosuke-chan who is not willing to surrender or become a nun will definitely be killed! But if this goes on, Kanbei.... It's just 10 more days till the deadline."

"Sagara-shi, just like what I had been saying, it's time we have to give up on a side."

"Stop saying things like there's no way we can't have everything, Goemon! Lives aren't like oranges when we can just throw it away simply!"

"Sagara-shi! As the commander in chief, you must have the resolve and courage to abandon something at the critical period."

"Uhh, I Hanbei will immediately begin to think of a way, we will definitely save Kanbei from Mt Shozan, put your mind at ease."

"Don't give yourself more burdens, Hanbei-chan. You haven't been resting these few days, right!?"

"This is my mistake."

"I beg you, hurry and go rest. I had even forced the matter of Kanbei's little sister on you."

"As for Shojyomaru-chan, I had arranged things according to what is needed. Cough cough."

"Don't tell me she was really executed?"

"She was "executed", such a rumor was spreaded."

"If Hanbei said this, there must be some other arrangements."

"Compared to this, Kanbei's situation is more important, cough, cough cough!"

Suddenly, Hanbei's coughing became much more intense.

It's different from the coughs all this while.

Even when Yoshiharu is patting her back, Goemon giving her a ninja's secret medicine, the coughing does not seem to show any signs of stopping.

"Goemon, hurry and lay Hanbei down!"

"Mmm, this is definitely not a usual cough."

Yoshiharu carried Hanbei who had overexerted herself and fainted out of their camp.

Passing through countless fences and towers and moving forwards with a speed to not shake Hanbei....

To confirm the direction of Hanbei's camp, Yoshiharu lifted his head and looked at the sky.

The night sky of the sengoku era's Harima is extremely bright.

Because of the clear air, the sky is full of stars.

The black sky littered with huge amounts of bright stars that Yoshiharu had not seen before in the 21st century,

(Is this the so called milky way?)

But in contrast,

Hanbei's body is this light,

so light that he could barely feel any weight on his back.

Is she this slim?

I had been relying too much on this child, unreasonably pushing much stuff on her.

The surround of Miki castle,

This virtual battle is slowly lowering Miki castle's morale.

Being unusually talented as a strategist, Hanbei-chan had always been thinking of "a way to fight without anyone dying".

And Kanbei had fulfilled this dream of Hanbei-chan by using her namban science.

But,

But there's a feeling that I had forgotten something very, very important. Though not knowing why, but Yoshiharu's unease in his heart is becoming more and more intense.

"Yoshiharu-san."

Hanbei who should be sleeping whispers by Yoshiharu's ears.

"Please bring me to a small hill that can overlook Miki castle."

"Sleep, the night wind isn't good for the body."

"This is to observe the "ki" from Miki castle, I beg you."

Yoshiharu had no choice but to listen to Hanbei and brought her to a small hill nearby.

Supporting herself with Yoshiharu's shoulder, Hanbei slowly sat up and looked wordlessly at the far away Miki castle.

Why?

Why did I bring Hanbei-chan here!?

Resting her head on Yoshiharu's shoulder, Hanbei said ,

"When Yoshiharu-san was carrying me, I had already thought of a way to save Kanbei."

"If we attack Mt Shozan now, Kanbei will be in danger. So we must create an opening to force Ukita to attack us."

"Opening?"

"Though Kotsuki castle is currently conquered by Ukita, the defense is extremely weak. Please allow me to

break a small troop to fake an attack on Kotsuki castle. Terrified that his retreat path is cut off, Ukita will definitely be uneasy."

Hanbei's intelligence is astonishing.

"Now that the eastern Miki castle is being sealed, Ukita must definitely not wish that the Kotsuki castle at his back be taken by us."

While coughing non-stop, Hanbei was explaining the battle strategies without stopping.

"And though it's a little dangerous but please allow Shikanosuke-san to stand at the forefront of the troop. Wanting Shikanosuke-san, Ukita will definitely lead his troops personally. After capturing Kanbei, if he can successfully capture Shikanosuke alive, his promise with the Mori clan will be considered completed and his position will become stable."

Yoshiharu nodded.

"Of course, this is just faking it. While observing the Ukita army's "ki", I will choose a suitable time to trap them at Yumezaki river with "ambush from all sides". But if they suffer heavy losses, they will definitely retreat

back to Mt Shozan so I will fake losing to try and drag things out."

"Ambush from all sides, huh? How nostagic, Nobuna and I was almost completely defeated at Mino due to this strategy. That commanding of yours at that time is almost artistic."

"Though it's not considered perfect, but this is already what I can do for the last time."

"Hanbei-chan?"

"Using this chance, please ask Goemon and the Kawanami clan to save Kanbei. Ukita is never an opponent that is easily deceived, so I who is in charge of delaying him and Goemon and Kawanami clan who is in charge of saving Kanbei is absolutely necessary, cough cough."

"Will it fail if I'm the one commanding the troops?"

With a solemn face, Hanbei said,

"Yes, both Yoshiharu-san and Shikanosuke-san lacks the ability to use "Ambush from all sides" effectively, so it must be me."

"I got it, then when should we implement it?"

"Goemon needs some time to prepare, but if possible, it's best to do it tomorrow."

"Yeah, Kanbei's situation is extremely worrying, I hope nothing bad had happened to her."

"Though Ukita Naoie is one of the three evils, but mysteriously, he had never harm females, he might have only not fed Kanbei, but there's nothing to worry about."

"Then why?"

"But this time he had his life at stake here too, and cough cough..."

"And?"

"If this plan isn't executed when my body is still hanging on..."

Hanbei had always been enduring with just a breath,

But her limit had finally been reached.

"....."

In Yoshiharu's hand, Hanbei's slim body suddenly collapsed.

Yoshiharu can't utter any sound.

In an instant, it's almost as if even his heart had stopped pumping.

Unbelievable and unable to think.

But there's only one thing he understands clearly, almost as if he had always known that it will be like this.

And that is, Hanbei's life is almost over.

She can't even cough anymore.

"Yoshiharu-san, I'm sorry but I had reached my limit."

Yoshiharu can not bear to look at the smile of Hanbei anymore, blaming himself in his heart that he had relied too heavily on this child.

"Yoshiharu-san."

"Don't speak anymore, conserve your strength."

"Now that I'm still conscious, there are things I want to tell you."

Hanbei's words are in bits and pieces.

"Sorry, I... As expected, I want to be complimented by Yoshiharu-san "Well done...", that's why I had not been truthful with you, sorry."

Hanbei looked at the sobbing Yoshiharu, smiled and continued saying.

"Zenki-san and I had been destroying the seal of Kyoto ."

"Seal?"

"To protect the commoners from demons invading, the Heian era's Kyoto was built with Omyoudou as the foundation, but that seal is the culprit for attracting countless evil spirits with Sutokunokami-sama as their leader to Kyoto.

"Really, are there really evil spirits in the sengoku era?"

"Evil spirits resides in the hearts of humans. From a long time ago, Kyoto had been absorbing the hatred,

anger and sadness bred from the commoner's hearts. That city's passing through of time had long since stopped, along with the change in all the commoner's hearts. The Onin war that killed countless people a hundred years ago had always....."

"If we don't change the hearts of the people, we won't be able to end this era filled with wars?"

"If the world is to believe that spirits have no actual body, someone with a strong will is required to lead the superstition... and that person is Nobuna-sama."

Hanbei mumbled to herself in harsh tones. (And I... am just someone helping out in a corner.)

"At Mount Hiei, the reason why I extinguish the holy flame is to let the hearts of those people who are afraid of spirits have new hope."

"Then, don't tell me we have been wrong and Mount Hiei's holy flame had not been truly extinguished!?"

"Whether the holy flame had been extinguished isn't important, from the day that the future queen, Nobuna-sama had surpassed the ancient authority of Mount Hiei, there had been a huge change in the hearts

of the people in Kyoto. The huge tide of Ki flowing at Kyoto, that is the dragon's vein and the strength of omyouji weakening is precisely due to this change."

"Hanbei-chan, have you been doing all this by yourself ? Working hard to end the era of omyoujis... I did not noticed it at all."

"The dark era of being afraid of spirits will soon end, with Nobuna-sama and Yoshiharu-san, we can definitely end it and then, what's left is the era where people can live under the bright sunlight."

Yoshiharu finally understands everything.

The reason why Takenaka Hanbei wants to fight the dark world all by herself,

And the reason why her illness had deteriorated so suddenly.

"The reason why Hanbei-chan's body became so weak is because of this too?"

Hanbei leaned onto Yoshiharu's arm and nodded lightly.

"I had a weak constitution from birth and needs to absorb "Ki" from different Seimei shrines scattered around periodically to extend my life."

"But now that the dragon's vein had been cut and "Ki" had been severely weakened, Hanbei-chan, why... why did you do such a thing!?"

"Yoshiharu-san, it's you and Nobuna-sama who gave me a reason to live on, from now on, please allow Kanbei to succeed my dream."

"I'm already happy enough to be able to meet with Yoshiharu-san." Hanbei smiled and said.

Yoshiharu had never felt such intense hatred for his own stupidity.

He can't even speak anymore.

He had already noticed there was something amiss, but had always felt that it's impossible and had not cared about it and after sometime, it had completely slipped out of his mind.

It's not that he can't recalled it, but he had been rejecting it, not willing to acknowledge the bad memory related to Takenaka Hanbei.

"Oda Nobunaga no Yabou"'s final event related to Takenaka Hanbei.

Takenaka Hanbei died due to sickness during the siege of Miki castle.

(But now, it's already too late, why... why did I...)

But even so,

According to history, Takenaka Hanbei had lived past 35 years old.

And this girl who is lying in Yoshiharu's bosom did not even reached 15.

It's too early.

It's not the time yet.

It's something that will happen a long time later, even if I did not notice it now, it's still ok, there's still time.

Yoshiharu thinks so in his heart.

But Hanbei-chan had shorten her own life for me.

"If we want to remove the darkness in people's hearts, if we want to severe the dragon's vein completely, we can't not have you, Hanbei-chan! Return everything to normal! We can only do it if you're alive!"

"No, Nobuna-sama's enemies aren't just the sengoku daimyos. The one which will really stop Nobuna-sama and Yoshiharu-san's dream is the ancient and rotten heart of this country which rejects change."

"Don't speak anymore, hurry and rest on a bed now."

"Your romance, the quest of Tenka Fubu and the dream of heading out onto the seas will be obstructed by a thought like "This country had been cursed, it will never change" and the spirits in people's hearts. Omyoujis, Shikigamis, demons and spirits should all disappear in the past eras. A future like the coup in Honnou temple will definitely change, the path that I chose isn't wrong... That's what I believe in."

"The Incident at Honnouji..."

"It isn't important who is the culprit, this had not even been decided yet. It's the rotten heart who rejects change that wants to destroy Nobuna-sama, with modern terms, it's the people who are possessed by the spirits who are obstructing Nobuna-sama dream of opening the gates to a new era."

The speed that Hanbei is talking is becoming slower.

Yoshiharu hugged Hanbei tightly and cried silently.

(I'm such a bastard, idiot!) Shouting like this countless times in his heart.

But Hanbei used the last of her strength to console Yoshiharu.

"If we want to change the history, you can't waste your energy on a meaningless thing like my fate."

"Just concentrate all your strength to change the fate of Nobuna-sama."

"Be sure to save Kanbei, it's only her who can replace me to help Yoshiharu-san and Nobuna-sama, she will definitely prosper at the other side of the sea."

Slowly, Hanbei's voice become softer, to the point of almost inaudible.

Yoshiharu lifted his head and look at the sky.

A shooting star flew past Yoshiharu and Hanbei's head .

Suddenly, Yoshiharu thought of a legend.

The fulfilling of a wish by wishing upon a shooting star three times.

No idea if anyone can actually hear this prayer.

But I don't care who it is, whether it's God, or Buddha.

Even if it's the devil...

Yoshiharu wishes in his heart.

(I don't care what happens to me, I don't mind even if I have to give my life to you, so please...)

(Save Hanbei-chan.)

(Save Kanbei.)

(Save Shikanosuke-chan.)

(Save Nobuna.)

Though he wants to have 4 wishes,

But he can only repeat each of them once before the shooting star disappears.

Yoshiharu despaired. (Can't I protect anyone?)

He suddenly thought of the words that Goemon had been warning him all this while.

"I'm such a bastard, idiot!" This time, Yoshiharu can't hold it in finally and cried out loud.

"Yoshiharu-san."

Hanbei does not even have the strength to open her eyes.

Her body heat is coming down quickly.

Like she's talking in her sleep, she kept calling Yoshiharu's name.

"I... I'm here, Hanbei-chan."

"Kanbei and I, one of us did live on, right? A thing like both of us not being saved did not happen, right?"

Hanbei's consciousness is starting to blur.

"It's true that in the history, only one survived, but history can be changed!"

"Yoshiharu-san, my choice is correct, right? Please tell me the truth."

"This..."

"Who survived in the history?"

Yoshiharu hesitated.

It might be only an instant, or it can be for a long time.

If he lied, it's like he had done an injustice to Hanbei-chan. Yoshiharu finally made up his mind but this resolve torments him.

"It's Kanbei."

That's good.

Hanbei mumbled.

And then, like she is finally at ease, she... smiled.

Like she's having a good dream.

"Kanbei's little sister..."

This was already Hanbei's last sentence.



Though she seems to want to say something, but it's already inaudible.

Just like this, Hanbei lose all consciousness, like she's sleeping.

Even if he shakes her or patted her, it's of no use.

Even if he begged her, cried at her loudly and prayed.

She did not wake up.

The last bits of life in Hanbei's body seems to have slipped out.

Yoshiharu have a premonition and that is, she will never wake up again and will die in her dreams.

"
UWAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!"

Yoshiharu roared as she lifted the unconscious Hanbei and ran down the cliff.

Jumping onto the horse, he speeded towards Hanbei's camp.

Yoshiharu can't speak anymore, the only thing escaping his mouth is his quick breathes.

The things that happened ever since he had met Hanbei seems to flash through his mind like a movie.

And these thoughts stabbed Yoshiharu's heart like sharp blades.

When he came back to his senses, he had already put Hanbei's body down on the bed.

Though her chest was still heaving slightly, but her weak breath seems to look like it will disappear anytime soon.

"As long as Master is alive, I can still maintain this form, but I will disappear with Master in the end."

Zenki said softly.

"Master will not wake up again, she can last another 10 days or so."

"10 days..."

"Kuroda Kanbei's execution is at 10 days later too, they might really have some fate with each other."

Yoshiharu's face had already been dirtied by the tears pouring from his eyes, Zenki patted his shoulders.

"I..."

"Don't feel down, this is the path that Master chose. This country needs to open a brand new door and move towards the future. Even without you, Omyoujis are destined to disappear."

"Hanbei-chan should be able to survive. If I did not mess around, she should still survive!"

"Sagara Yoshiharu! If you are still a man, you should stop saying things like this! Do you want to tarnish the will of Master!?"

After being slapped by Zenki, Yoshiharu suddenly stopped crying.

Yeah.

If I give up right here, Hanbei's will, dream and hard work will evaporate into nothing.

Yoshiharu bite down hard on his lips and grab hold of his ankles.

Even when his nails and dug in so deeply that it drew blood, he did not noticed it at all.

"I understand, now isn't the time to cry. I will head forwards without stopping!"

Ho... Zenki narrowed his eyes and said.

"As expected from Sagara Yoshiharu, you have the expression of a man in an instant."

"I will definitely save Hanbei-chan, Zenki! Even till the end, I will never give up, no matter who objects, I will not listen at all!"

"How do you plan to save her?"

"If it's due to the dragon's vein being severed and causing the "Ki" to weaken, I can concentrate all the "Ki" onto Hanbei's body, it will definitely work!"

"What a naive way of thinking, but this idea can't work ."

"Then hurry and tell me a way that works, Zenki!"

"I'm as weak as Master. Right now, I can't do anything. "

"How about the rest? Are there other Omyoujis who have enough strength to save Hanbei-chan?"

"I can't say about strength, but there is an Omyouji who is kind in nature."

"Where is that person!? Hurry and tell me!"

"I said already, all omyoujis are currently losing their strength. Though they aren't in a situation that even their lives are weakening like Master, but as a spellcaster, they are a far cry from the past."

Then are there other ways, there must be a way! Yoshiharu kept moving towards Zenki.

"Though there is one, but getting that is almost impossible."

"That? What's that?"

Zenki smiled like a fox and said.

"In the Shousouin of Todai Shrine, there is a treasure named Ranjatai."

"Ranjatai?"

"It's the best Aloeswood passed down from Tang dynasty in the Heian era, of course, it's not just a piece of Aloeswood, but an elixir that grants immortality. An unbelievable amount of spiritual power resides in it, just a small piece from it will replenished the Ki that Master is lacking. Though the Ranjatai isn't enough to cure Master of her illness, but extending her life is more than enough."

"As long as she survives, Hanbei-chan's illness will definitely be cured one day!"

"Though Belchior Manase who is skilled in both traditional and Namban medicine is unable to cure Master of her illness, but Namban medicine is just starting to develop."

Then hurry and tell me the way to obtain this Ranjatai! Without knowing it, Yoshiharu had grabbed onto Zenki's shirt.

"Oioi, Ranjatai is the supreme treasure of the palace, it's not something we can easily get a hold of."

"But there's still a possibility!"

"If you do such a messed up thing, the history will become even more chaotic. It's precisely because Master is worried about this that she said nothing to you, even I had no plans to tell you at the start."

"Use your brain and think, a thing like Ranjatai isn't easy to get. Even if we donated huge amounts of money to the palace through the nobles, I'm afraid we won't have enough time before they agree. It's even worst if we obtain it through brute force, Oda Nobuna will become a public enemy!"

But Yoshiharu is currently in his own world.

Even if Zenki had explained all the logic, he does not have any intentions to back down.

"Then we will steal it, if Goemon goes, we can definitely get it. All we need to do is cut off a piece that we need and return it back!"

"Let's not mentioned the fact that it's not a treasure we can obtain within a few days, if you send Goemon to Shousouin, what do you plan to do with the execution of Kanbei 10 days later?"

"AHHH!"

"No matter what method you use, you can only save one of them. I wish to respect Master's wishes, but if this goes on, you can't even save Kuroda Kanbei!"

"Yeah, if it's not Hanbei-chan, we can't even use the " Ambush from all sides"."

Right now, what lies in front of Yoshiharu is a tough decison.

He does not know which path is the correct one.

Though he tried his best to think, but he can't do it in the end.

I'm not one of those thinkers from the start.

I'm Sagara Yoshiharu.

My heart is roaring, roaring to not give up on anyone of them.

Roaring that there isn't a future that he have to sacrifice his companions!

Yoshiharu shouted, "Zenki, since you won't be disappearing for now, substitute me for a while!" as he walks out of the tent.

"Where are you going?"

"Honnou temple! I'm going over to Nobuna! If it's her, she will definitely obtain the Ranjatai for Hanbei-chan!"

"Without the permission of the palace, if we are to forcefully take it, the rumors of Oda Nobuna wanting to destroy the palace will become even more intense, once the Oda clan becomes a public enemy, everything is finished."

"I won't let Nobuna become a public enemy! But I will definitely not let Hanbei-chan die! I will obtain the Ranjatai with the proper means and then save Kanbei!"

"Are you an idiot, what can you do with just 10 days? And there are many unusual circumstances surrounding Oda Nobuna in Kyoto. You should understand just from the strange order of executing Shojyomaru! You are forcing it."

"The matter about Shojyomaru, Hanbei-chan had arranged it properly?"

"Yeah...."

"Nobuna thinks the same as me! As long as I explained the reasons, she will definitely help me!"

Yeah, if it's Nobuna.....

If it's Nobuna, she will definitely understands me!

But the spirit that Hanbei called "Ancient spirit" is now lurking in Kyoto and at Nobuna's side.

Because Nobuna had breathe in miasma during the fire of Kamigyo and fainted, she had finally regained consciousness and sat up after receiving Belchior Manase's treatment.

But even now, the rational Nobuna does not understand just what is the spirit that appears in the fire.

She sipped some tea and starts to gather her thoughts.

"Just how many days did I lose consciousness? Yoshiharu did not just stand there and die in Harima, right?"

"Yes."

Answering Nobuna's summons, the new aide Manmi Senchiyo walked in.

Amongst the aides that Nobuna hired from Kyoto, this Senchiyo is the most quick witted, sensible and efficient out of all of them.

Not just familar with the Kyoto culture, she's smart, like Mitsuhide without her weakness of not able to sense the atmosphere and loves to daydream.

To the current Oda clan, a talent who knows etiquette and is familiar with the Kyoto culture is extremely important and Senchiyo's family status is good too.

Some day, I will raise her as a general and then a daimyo. Nobuna had plans like this.

But at this moment, Senchiyo said unbelievable words.

"During the period when Hime-sama was bedridden, rumors that Kuroda Kanbei had defected over to the Ukita clan had spread far and wide."

"Harima? Such an unbelievable thing that even idiots don't believe, it must definitely be a ploy by the Mori clan, right?"

"But it's a fact that Kanbei had suddenly disappear, an order had been given for Sagara Yoshiharu to execute the hostage Shojyomaru, Kuroda Kanbei's sister."

Hearing this, the teacup on Nobuna's hand dropped onto the floor.

"Yo...You gotta be kidding? Just who gave that order!?"

"I'm sorry, but it's Hime-sama, you yourself who had given the order."

"You liar, I have no memory of giving such an order!"

"I heard Hime-sama said that with my own ears. Is it because you were deluded from the fever and did not remember?"

"How... No way... Then what happened to Shojyomaru now?"

"She was executed at Nagahama castle."

"Saru isn't someone who will accept such an unreasonable order to kill such young girls!"

"But that is a fact. Hime-sama had given the order, if he did not execute Shojyomaru, the companions that Sagara Yoshiharu left in Nagahama castle will all be implicated. I'm afraid he had made a very difficult decision too."

Of course, these are all lies woven by Senchiyo, it goes without saying that it's perfectly normal for Nobuna to have no impression at all.

Though she did not remember, but Nobuna thought she had said something dumb when she lose control of her emotions during the time she is deluded.

In the first place, the reason why she sent Yoshiharu alone to Harima when the reinforcements are not in place is also due to she losing control of her emotions.

(Because of my rash character, I had said such a thing during the period when I'm dizzy? But no matter how I explain this, no one will believe me.)

(I can't face Yoshiharu and the rest anymore!) Nobuna sobbed in despair.

At this moment, Senchiyo continued saying without mercy.

"I'm really sorry but it had been discovered later that Kanbei did not defect but was captured by Ukita Naoie."

"!?"

"Though Kuroda Kanbei was not given food in the underground prison, she had hold on to her loyalty for Hime-sama and endured through the ordeal."

"Ah, ah..."

Like she was unable to hold herself up, Nobuna fell onto the tatami mat.

It's all over.

Whether if it's Harima or Yoshiharu...

He will definitely treat me like the demon lord of the sixth realm and despair.

I had betrayed my companions.

Betrayed those companions who have the same dream, irreplaceable companions.

(But I really can't recall me saying such a thing, just what is with me? I don't understand myself anymore already, save me Yoshiharu!)

Senchiyo retreated out of the room wordlessly, leaving Nobuna herself to lie on the tatami mat and sobbed.

Evil spirits' leers can almost be heard from the surroundings.

"Why can't I see Nobuna! Let me through!"

"I afraid not, Hime-sama is still sick and bedridden. She can't meet anyone in at least 10 days."

"I know so let me through! She should at least be able to do a thing like talking it out!"

"No, guards! Chase Sagara Yoshiharu out! She is here to meet Hime to escape from the battle of Harima!"

"Yes, Senchiyo-sama!"

"The current you is unbelievable, hurry back to Harima, Sagara Yoshiharu!"

"No! I'm here for Hanbei-chan!"

Yoshiharu had rushed to Kyoto without any rest but was stopped outside the door at Honnou temple by the aides, unable to meet Nobuna.

Leading the aides and guards, Senchiyo had totally ignored Sagara Yoshiharu and had not given him any chance to explain.

"Right now, Hime-sama's health is the most important. If I allow some baseless words to disrupt Hime-sama's rest, her health will worsen again."

"BASTARD!!!!!!! I DON'T CARE WHAT THE DOCTOR HAVE TO SAY, LET ME MEET NOBUNA RIGHT NOW!!"

"No, the current you have no right to meet Hime-sama, Sagara Yoshiharu. If you want to meet her, conquer Harima first!"

"Stop joking! I don't have time now! If I don't bring the Ranjatai back now....!"

"Please return to Harima immediately. I will really give the order to shoot the next time."

The archers all around had drawn their bow and aim at Sagara Yoshiharu, yet he was still roaring at Senchiyo, "YOU BASTARD, JUST WHERE DID YOU COME FROM !? WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?"

But facing such a Sagara Yoshiharu, Senchiyo did not change her expression and said.

"From now on, the aides will be in charge of taking care of Nobuna-sama. The frontlines generals should just fight at the frontline."

Her tone makes it clear that she has no intention of changing her mind.

After that, Yoshiharu did not give up and tried to sneak into Honnou temple multiple times, but every time , he was stopped by Senchiyo.

Like really planning to kill Yoshiharu, she mercilessly shoots at him.

And so, Yoshiharu was hurt all over.

And every time he failed in sneaking in, the security at Honnou temple becomes even stricter. In the end, it's at a point that even a single fly can't fly in.

While doing all this, the sun had started to set.

Ever since Owari, the trustworthy companions always by her side are all absent now.

Mituhide is at Tamba, Nagahide at Wakasa, Katsuie at Hokuriku, Kazumasu at Ise and Nobusumi at Northern Omi.

Now, no matter how furious Yoshiharu gets, he can't think of a way to change the current situation.

"I can't waste anymore time, but I just can't meet Nobuna, damn!"

Being forced to a corner, Yoshiharu decided to take a gamble as he heads towards the palace.

But not through the main gate, but over the walls.

Right now, even if we are to go through the nobles to obtain the Ranjatai, we must wait for a few months, and it will most likely be rejected.

But if he was able to meet with Himiko directly and explain his reason to her, he might just be able to get permission.

Maybe, when he climb over the walls, he might just find Himiko-sama in the courtyard.

Yoshiharu had already resolved to die.

He knows himself that this is just too rash.

But his anxious heart had overwhelmed his rationality.

If this goes on, Hanbei's life will really be at it's end.

Kanbei's executation date is closing in day by day.

The current Yoshiharu don't have any other way but to rush ahead without caring about anything.

But this gamble that Yoshiharu bet his life on ended with failure.

"Just what are you doing, you dirty fellow!"

Standing in the courtyard on the other side of the wall isn't Himiko but the Kampaku, Konoe Sakihisa.

The rain that started raining during dusk had drenched the whole of the courtyard.

Not caring getting drenched, Yoshiharu kneeled in front of Konoe Sakihisa.

Even if the mud had smeared all over his forehead and had gotten into his eyes, Yoshiharu tried his best to lower his head and beg Konoe Sakihisa.

"Please give me the Ranjatai, just a little, I beg you!"

But Konoe Sakihisa stomped on Yoshiharu's head and mercilessly force it deep in the mud.

"Don't say such idiotic words, you fool! Who is going to give such precious Ranjatai to a lowly guy like you. I Kampaku will never agree!"

He kept sneering and scolding Yoshiharu.

But Yoshiharu endured.

Keep enduring in the mud.

If he gives up here, he can't save Hanbei.

So no matter what kind of humiliation, he must endure it through.

"Then how about this, I don't mind if my life is used to change for the Ranjatai, please give it to me!"

"What arrogance, do you think it's ok to talk to the Kampaku with such an arrogant tone?"

"I beg you, please give the Ranjatai to me, I beg you!"

"Idiot!"

In the torrential rain, Yoshiharu's head and abdomen were kicked by Konoe Sakihisa as he fell countless times.

"Uhh..."

Even the inside of his mouth is full of wounds.

Puking a mouth of blood, without any spot without wounds, Yoshiharu mumbled the same sentence half consciousness as he crawled towards Konoe Sakihisa.

"I don't care what you do to me, please give me the Ranjatai, I beg you."

"Stop putting your dirty face near me!"

Sakihisa shouted as he kicked right at Yoshiharu's face, causing the latter to lose consciousness and fell into the mud.

Sakihisa looked at the unconscious Yoshiharu in contempt and order to his aides.

"Throw this monkey out!"

"I don't have any other ways. Can't I save Hanbei-chan and Kanbei?"

Sunekosuri crawled out from Yoshiharu's bosom and licked his muddied face as he was being thoroughly beaten up and thrown out on the streets like trash.

"Sagara Yoshiharu, buck up~nya."

"You're still there?"

"Yeah, Sunekosuri who loves humans is right here~nya."

Yoshiharu looks like Sunekosuri whose eyes that is extremely similar with Kanbei, can't hold it in and finally cried out.

Himeji castle,

The news that the master Kanbei had been captured by Ukita Naoie and will soon be executed had reached the retainers of the Kuroda clan.

"Just what is going on!?"

"Why must Hime suffer like this!?"

"I heard if we hand over Yamanaka Shikanosuke, we can get Hime back."

"At this critical moment, where did that Sagara Yoshiharu disappear to?"

"After executing Shojyomaru-sama, does he plan to abandon Hime too!?"

"Let's tie Yamanaka Shikanosuke up right now to get our Hime back!"

"Exactly!"

The Kuroda retainers who were already dissatisfied with the giving away of Himeji castle over to an unknown Sagara Yoshiharu are now close to going berserk.

Their master Kanbei had been innocently wrapped into the clash between the Oda clan and Mori clan, she had now fell into the hands of Ukita Naoie who was " famous" for his evil ways.

And, Shojyomaru who was given to the Oda clan as a hostage was executed with Oda Nobuna's order.

In such a situation, it was obvious that the retainers will become extremely angry.

Though the Kuroda clan wasn't an authentic local clan of Harima but all the masters of the Kuroda clan had been very generous to their retainers and people and so, the retainers were all united and extremely loyal.

They were all furious over the meaningless death of Shojyomaru and Kanbei's misfortunate as they wept for them.

Someone even shouted that Yamanaka Shikanosuke brings bad luck.

"Those fellows kept failing in the battles they stir up to restore the Amago clan. From my point of view, they won't succeed no matter how we help them."

"Yeah, Yamanaka Shikanosuke is definitely tied down by the fate of suffering."

"The reason why those brave warriors under her keep being defeated in battle was also because of her fate of suffering."

"Now even our Hime and Shojyomaru had been implicated by her misfortunate.

"Though Hime is a little strange, but she's the smartest person no one can beat, it's too strange for such a person to fall into Ukita Naoie's hands."

"Tie Shikanosuke up and hand her over!"

"Now that Sagara Yoshiharu isn't around, this is the best chance."

In the critical moment that it won't be strange even for those Kuroda retainers that had gathered in Himeji castle to start a revolt,

"What do you plan to do, old master?"

"We can't take it anymore, please don't stop us."

"We want to tie Yamanaka Shikanosuke....."

Though he was surrounded by furious retainers, Kanbei's and Shojyomaru's father, Souen's expression did not change the slightest.

Like he's drowsy, he messed up his hair and said.

"Hoho... It will exactly be what Ukita Naoie wants if we starts fighting among ourselves. That man is skilled in making the enemy doubt themselves and then eliminate themselves, don't you guys understand this?"

"We do!"

"He intentionally set up a bait like a hostage exchange to make us fight among ourselves."

"But understanding aside, we will never allow Hime to die just like this!"

"There's still me Kuroda Souen in the Kuroda clan. Now that Kanbei is captured, I'm the head of the Kuroda clan, if you guys want to revolt and finish the Kuroda clan, kill me first."

Looking at the silent retainers yet with their shoulders trembling, Souen said softly.

"Kanbei had entrusted herself and her dream onto the Oda clan. When she's around Sagara Yoshiharu-sama and Takenaka Hanbei-dono, the joyful and spirited expression on Kanbei's face is the first even for me. So the Sagara corps is the true home for Kanbei. As a father, I respect Kanbei's decision and will not betray the Oda clan no matter what. Trust me, trust Sagara Yoshiharu-sama."

Towards these words of Souen, the retainers have no words of retort.

But they aren't that easy to completely persuade.

Not knowing just how long he can surpress the anger in his retainers' hearts, Souen laughed out loud "Hoho, how troubling..." as he messed with his hair again.

"It had became like this, Yamanaka Shikanosuke, what do you have in mind?"

There were two people looking at all of these from outside the room.

One is Zenki who had disguised himself to replace the unconscious Hanbei.

And the other is Yamanaka Shikanosuke.

"It will be good if there's any way to save Kanbei, but I just can't think of any good ideas using my head. And I can't really exchange myself with Kanbei, if not, the resurrection of the Amago clan will never happen..... Just what should I do?"

"This is something you yourself have to decide."

"Is there any plan?"

"I have one, but now that my master had lost her consciousness, wanting to execute that plan.... It's extremely difficult."

"Both Hanbei and Kanbei is in such a situation, where did Yoshiharu-sama disappear to at such a critical moment, did he ran off?"

"Sagara Yoshiharu isn't such a guy, he should be knowing his limits at Kyoto about now, and will be returning soon."

But to Shikanosuke, the only impression left to her is that Sagara Yoshiharu is someone who will touch her breasts all the time.

"Though he is our commander but Yoshiharu-sama is really perverted. He isn't just unreliable but untrustworthy too, it makes me suspect whether did he really work hard to save the 2 strategists."

"Oh..." Zenki curled his lips up like a fox.

"I'm a demon so I had always kept my silence on the matters of the human world. But I will take today as an exception, I feel that rather than your skin, Sagara Yoshiharu wants to touch your heart even more."

"What, then who is the one touching me?"

"There's a demon-like thing called Sunekosuri that is possessing Sagara Yoshiharu, it is the one touching you."

"A demon-like thing? Why did such a thing..."

"Sagara Yoshiharu fancies a girl with all his heart. Simply said, to save that girl from her fate of demise, he doesn't care even if he had to bear the reputation of being a pervert."

"For a girl he fancies? Such a thing..."

This is the truth, Zenki declared.

"That girl" that Shikanosuke can think of can only be Hanbei or Kanbei, these two who are always by Yoshiharu's side.

"That girl is Hanbei?"

"Wrong."

"Kanbei then?"

"It's not a small girl, but a girl around the same age as you, and she is not part of the Sagara corps."

"I don't understand, since it isn't Hanbei or Kanbei, why did Yoshiharu-sama work so hard for the both of them?"

"To that fellow, all his comrades are like his family, a hopeless naive idiot who is gentle to everyone and does not want to lose any of them, especially a princess knight like you. He holds a great amount of respect to you guys who fight in the battlefield with unwavering will."

"Even me....? But he totally does not look like the way you talk about him."

"Haha, though many things are in fact done by Sunekosuri but it's also a fact that Sagara Yoshiharu is very lecherous."

Zenki and Shikanosuke looked upon the moon floating in the night sky, as they slowly talked about the secrets buried in their hearts.

"Sagara Yoshiharu knows about the fate of many famous warriors, including you, Yamanaka Shikanosuke. "

"My fate?"

"You wanna hear it? You will regret it though."

"I will never escape from my fate, please tell me."

With sharp eyes, Shikanosuke looked at Zenki.

"If that's the case...." Zenki start saying.

"Just like what you've seen, the current Oda clan has no more strength to support the Amago heroes. Yamanaka Shikanosuke, you will be caught by the Mori clan, and then, following through with the loyalty to the Amago clan, you will die and the dream of resurrecting the Amago clan will vanish with you. This is your fate that Sagara Yoshiharu told me."

Suddenly, all Shikanosuke can see in front of her was darkness.

If Sagara Yoshiharu said so, it was definitely the truth.

"So it's like this, my wish will not be fulfilled in the end, huh?"

Tears of anguished flowed down from Shikanosuke's face.

Actually, Shikanosuke herself understands that the lifeline of the Amago clan had long ended.

"It isn't just a sad thing, Yamanaka Shikanosuke. Your tragedy of unparalleled loyalty are well known even in the future of 400 years later. Isn't it the highest honor for a warrior to leave your name down through the ages?"

"It's because of this that I had devoted my life to resurrecting the Amago clan. Humans will eventually die , rather than shirking your responsibility to continue living, I would choose to go through with my beliefs to the last second, I do not want to lose to my own weak self."

Shikanosuke thought of the divination that Kanbei had done for her before she got captured.

(When I drew the "Wheel of destiny", Kanbei had explained, "The time when you have to fight with your destiny will soon come. There's only one chance, once

then, you must make the choice according to your own will.", now is "that time", right?)

"If that's the case, I will fight to the last moment." Shikanosuke decided

Since, my life had long been forfeited.

But, the words that Zenki said next shook Shikanosuke's heart.

"But Sagara Yoshiharu said, I don't care if the legend of Yamanaka Shikanosuke was unable to spread 400 years later, he wants you to live on, and then, he wants to help you fufill your wish of resurrecting the Amago clan."

"!?"

The resolve that Shikanosuke had just gotten hold of was shaken violently.

Sagara Yoshiharu is such a man, huh?

"That man wants to change the twisted fates of all his comrades, but that path is way too hard. A thing like saving all his comrades can't be done just by resolve and so, it had became like this. My master had fallen and can

only slowly wait for the descent of death, the date of the execution of Kuroda Kanbei is nearing day by day. Without the help of the Oda clan, you will soon be killed during the battle with the Mori clan. Wanting to save everyone, yet unable to save anyone."

"Yoshiharu-sama wants to free me from my cursed fate , and it caused such a turn of events?"

"In the end, it can't be fulfilled and if Sagara Yoshiharu keeps going on with his reckless ways, I'm afraid..."

"Those who shouldn't die will lose their lives?"

"I can't say for sure, but there's such a possibility."

Shikanosuke starts to recall.

The time is now back to her original clan, the time when the Amago clan had just been destroyed.

No matter how many enemies she fought by herself, no matter how many victories she achieve in battle, but like fate had already abandoned her, before she noticed it , she had lost any hope of victory.

Shikanosuke isn't a stubborn fool, she herself knows that she can't win.

Ever since young, she had always been thinking about sacrificing herself during the battle with the Mori clan.

The reason why she pray to the moon for suffering, is also because she feels that there's only the path of being destroyed together with the Amago clan left.

But,

After hearing the words of Yoshiharu,

She understands that such a path of mutual destruction isn't a way that samurais should die but to open a new path through the numerous ordeals.

"He wants me to continue living, though Yoshiharu-sama knows about my fate, he continues saying such a thing."

"That man will not give anyone up even if it's the last moment, even if he had to sacrificle his own life. From a

certain perspective, he is even more greedy than Ukita Naoie. Because of his strong desires, he will rather give up on himself than to give up on his comrades."

"....."

"It's the same during the time at Kanegasaki. He is a man that is laughed at as an army's commander, but....."

Zenki inhaled deeply and continue saying.

"....But if this goes on, both my master and Kanbei will die, we must avoid this no matter what."

In the end, Yoshiharu wasn't able to get the Ranjatai and can only drag his bruised body back to the frontlines of Harima.

But this time, even Yamanaka Shikanosuke had disappeared.

Yoshiharu can't help but ask Zenki who was sitting on the strategist seat replacing Hanbei.

"Just what is going on!? Don't tell me....?"

"Calm down, Sagara Yoshiharu, it's not like what you think. Yamanaka Shikanosuke is only making a choice according to her own fate."

"Choice?"

"She asked me to say this to you: "If I can use this cursed life of mine to save Kanbei who must not die, I will smile and welcome death."

"Don't tell me you told her her fate, wait, how did you know!?"

"YOU KNOW THAT IT WILL BECOME LIKE THIS AFTER TELLING HER, WHY DID YOU TELL HER ANYWAY, ZENKI!?" Yoshiharu roared as he swings his fist at Zenki.

But he didn't feel his fist connect, no matter how many punches Yoshiharu threw, all of them just passed through Zenki's body.

Almost like Zenki wasn't there in the first place.

"Ha, ha, ha... Yo...You bastard, just what did you do!?"

"Don't be so restless, Sagara Yoshiharu? Don't you understand, now that we can't get the Ranjatai, I will definitely prevent a thing like letting Kanbei die causing the last wish of my master to not be fulfilled."

"Even so...! Ukita Naoie will never fulfill his promise! Even if Shikanosuke-chan went over, he will never release Kanbei!"

"It's true that there's such a possibility, but this is the only way left to steer this out of control history back to it's right tracks. It's in this possibility that Yamanaka Shikanosuke bet everything on, just like Kanbei had bet on that miniscule possibility to save my master previously."

"So if Shikanosuke-chan dies, Kanbei can live on? When those whose fate was to vanish into history were to choose to vanish on their own accord, those who

should survive will survive, are you trying to tell me this ?"

"Though the chances aren't big but Yamanaka Shikanosuke had already bet everything on such a possibility."

"I will definitely not accept such a reason! This world isn't a game! There's no need for Shikanosuke-chan to bear other people's ordeals!"

"Then do you have any way to save all three of them at the same time?"

Zenki's depressing words cause Yoshiharu's knees to go limb.

The culminated sense of defeat over the past few days assault him all at the same time.

(It's over, there's no way out.)

Even Sagara Yoshiharu had collapsed, but at this moment...

"What kind of an expression are you having now!? Just like a whipped dog! You're the man who said, "I will

never give anyone up.", Sagara Yoshiharu! Since you said you can do it, then you must hold on no matter what ordeals is facing you! If not why did you come to this world!?"

Zenki's loud reprimand reignite the courage in Yoshiharu's almost despairing heart.

To see this aloof shikigami actually getting so agitated about other people is a first.

"If you give up just because of such a little ordeal, then don't talk about saving Oda Nobuna! IS YOUR RESOLVE ONLY AT SUCH A LEVEL!? FIND A MIRROR AND LOOK AT THAT PATHETIC LOOK OF YOURS NOW! DO YOU HAVE THE FACE TO LOOK AT THOSE COMRADES WHO GIVE UP THEIR LIVES AT KANEGASAKI TO PROTECT YOU!? DO YOU HAVE THE FACE TO SEE MY MASTER HANBEI!?"

"Nobuna... Hanbei-chan..."

Yoshiharu opened his eyes.

I can do it! We don't have the damn time to worry about problems like whether we can do it or not.

I can only do it!

Right now, I can only use this life of mine and do what I can!

Hanbei-chan, Kanbei, Shikanosuke-chan, Nobuna, they are currently deep in their own twisted fate.

I.....

The thing I can do for them right now.....

(There's nothing I can't do, the reason is I'm still alive, since I'm not lacking a limb, if I rushed on ahead, I can definitely do something! Is that right, Hanbei-chan.....!)

I still have this life of mine!

Who's going to say a thing like I can't do anything!

As long as this body can move, as long as I still have a breath in me!

Even if this body of mine spoils, I'm going to fight on with my will till the end!

Yoshiharu resolves to do anything even if he have to die.

But this is never being suicidal due to despair.

There's an obstacle to grabbing onto all of them, and that's Yoshiharu himself.

One right hand, one left hand and a pair of legs.... The things that humans can grab a hold of is limited.

So I had to abandon myself and turn into an empty bag, only with this can I hold everything.

I must have come to this world for this.

The mental nerves of Yoshiharu that was pushed to the limit had entered into a new realm.

A situation that if he can't surpass, anyone will go crazy, Yoshiharu had finally surpassed it now.

(I am no longer the past me who is holding the secrets in by himself, even if I can't, I have comrades who had inherited my wish of "changing Nobuna's fate", just like how Hanbei-chan had entrusted her wish to Kanbei. All

this while, I had been observing and thinking with my own perspective, but it isn't the same now. I have comrades now, since they are comrades who had inherited my will and dream, they can't die so easily, isn't that so, Hanbei-chan?")

Hanbei's selflessness, Shikanosuke's resolve, Zenki's reprimand and Kanbei's courage had all helped Yoshiharu surpassed the insurmountable wall.

"I understand! Zenki! No matter what others said, I will never give anyone up! Come at me!"

The courage burning in Yoshiharu's heart is currently burning like a fire pillar.

"Though I had wasted 3 days in Kyoto, I have a week left. I'm going to personally command the "Ambush from all sides" to save Kanbei! Attack Todai shrine to snatch the Ranjatai! Whether if it's a traitor or a sinner, I'm going to do it all! The worst that can happen is just a seppuku!"

"There's something you shouldn't forget. A week later, the tens of thousands of Mori clan will reached Harima."

"Once then, all we need to do is to sent them flying!"

"That's impossible, we don't have the time or the manpower, what can we do with just resolve? I had already spoke so much, now think it through."

"Ahh, I'm an idiot, I don't know any ways and I'm slow. I only know to charge on to open a new path! As long as I'm alive, there must be some way, Zenki!"

Zenki sighed and said, "What a hopeless idiot..." as he narrowed his eyes.

"Then so be it, you who wants everything. First, chase Yamanaka Shikanosuke back."

"That goes without saying!"

Yoshiharu galloped off to chase after Yamanaka Shikanosuke.

At this time, a shooting star passed by Yoshiharu's head.

Looking at it, Yoshiharu shouted.

"Save Hanbei-chan, save Kanbei, save Shikanosuke-chan, save Nobuna! Save Hanbei-chan, save Kanbei, save Shikanosuke-chan, save Nobuna! Save

Hanbei-chan, save Kanbei, save Shikanosuke-chan, save Nobuna! I did it! Before the shooting star vanished, I said it three times! I will not rely on God or Buddha again! Come at me, suffering! There are no longer anything that can stop me!"

"Sagara-shi, you had finally resolve yourself to not give up anything except your own life, then I can't ignore this any longer."



At his back comes the voice of Goemon.

He can felt a shudder in his bosom.

"Ahhh, Sunekosuri, Goemon, let's go!"

But at this time, Yoshiharu did not know that the huge shooting star above his head did not disappear but had become a dark red demonic star.

After receiving the news that "Shojyomaru had been executed", Nobuna had been sobbing non-stop at her room in Honnou temple.

And by Nobuna's side, the evil spirit full of grudges were always close by.

It's at this moment that news came from Yamato that Matsunaga Hisahide had been persuaded by the Mori clan to revolt.

The full out conflict between the Oda clan and Mori clan, the famous "Battle of Harima" is about to start!

~Translator's Notice: For more info on updates, please visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/OdaNobunaLN.Eng/

Translator's Notes and References

1. ↑ TL Note: Noh is a major form of classical Japanese musical drama.
2. ↑ TL Note: The word she used to express I is the same as what Imagawa used, 妾(Warawa).
3. ↑ TL Note: Black ships(Kurofune) was the name given to Namban vessels as they first disembarked onto Japan in the 16th century.
4. ↑ TL note: Yoshiharu said time in English.
5. ↑ TL Note: The literal translation will be to drink tea while talking politics, I used Political tea parties as I think it fits the literal meaning closer.
6. ↑ TL Note: The "I" used here is that of "boku", the male version of "watashi"